



TI-USA Commends Action on Prosecutorial Integrity

Washington, DC, 2 April 2009 –

Transparency International-USA (TI-USA) today commended the decision by Attorney General Eric Holder highlighting integrity of the judicial process in the criminal corruption case against former Alaska Senator Ted Stevens. Despite the unfortunate result in this important public corruption case, the attention to prosecutorial misconduct should ultimately serve to strengthen the Justice Department's prosecution of public corruption.

Attorney General Holder's action was based on an internal Justice Department review that, according to published reports, uncovered evidence of serious prosecutorial misconduct, including apparent concealment of potentially exculpatory information in violation of established rules and procedures. Mr. Holder was right to give precedence to the integrity of the prosecutorial process. That ends, however laudable, cannot be used to justify prosecutorial means is a bedrock principle of American justice, important not only in this case but to the fairness and credibility of the judicial system.

Dismissal of the conviction should not be viewed as a vindication of Senator Stevens' conduct, which, according to evidence in the public record, strongly supports a finding of improper conduct. Such abuses by public officials are serious and undermine the integrity and credibility of our political process. They must be aggressively investigated and prosecuted whenever they come to light, in a manner consistent with established prosecutorial guidelines and standards. The Justice Department's Public Integrity Section has ably performed this function for many years, and must continue to do so.

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Transparency International-USA is the U.S. chapter of Transparency International, the global civil society organization leading the fight against corruption.

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