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U.S. Department of Justice

Alice H. Martin  
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Northern District of Alabama

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May 27, 2003

Ms. Sandy Rios, President  
Ms. Janet M. LaRue, Chief Counsel  
Concerned Women of America  
1015 Fifteenth Street, N.W., Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Rios and Ms. LaRue:

We are in receipt of your letter dated April 30, 2003, inquiring about the status of any obscenity cases filed by this office and the status of investigations into complaints about obscene material available on the Internet that have been filed on Morality In Media's web site, [www.observativcrimes.org](http://www.observativcrimes.org). The investigation and prosecution of child exploitation and obscenity is a priority in the Northern District of Alabama. In fact, we have a Task Force currently operating in our district that targets child exploitation on the internet. The Innocent Images Task Force has been used as a model by the FBI nation wide. We have been very successful in prosecuting numerous child exploitation cases in this district. In fact between June, 2002 and April, 2003 we have successfully prosecuted fourteen such cases. Many of those cases involved the solicitation of children on the internet.

Last June, Attorney General John Ashcroft spoke at the Federal Prosecutor's Symposium on Obscenity in Columbia, South Carolina. The Attorney General stated that "[t]he Department of Justice is unequivocally committed to the task of prosecuting obscenity." He also encouraged prosecutors to work with the Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), to aggressively investigate and prosecute those individuals and companies who manufacture and distribute obscene materials. Our office works with state and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as prosecutors from CEOS to pursue these cases.

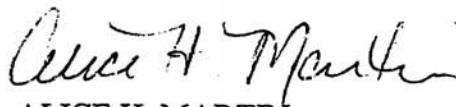
We trust you understand that we are not able to comment on pending investigations into the distribution of obscene material into the Northern District of Alabama. We can report, however, that we have asked our local federal law enforcement agents to investigate any and every complaint about potentially obscene material available in the Northern District of Alabama. As we are sure you recognize, most, if not all, of the obscenity complaints received by this office are not actually prosecutable because of the difficulty associated with locating the actual individuals or companies that create and distribute the objectionable material. Unfortunately, the trail to finding those individuals sometimes ends outside of our country's

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borders and out of our prosecutorial reach, or even more frequently, to a dead end. Sometimes the complaint received may not contain sufficient information to permit an investigation. Other times the obscenity complaints may not be prosecutable because venue may not lie in the Northern District of Alabama, or the objectionable material giving rise to a complaint may not be obscene under the Supreme Court's obscenity standard set forth in *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15 (1973).

Thank you so much for your inquiry about the status of our obscenity prosecutions. Be assured that we take very seriously all the complaints we have received and will continue to make it a priority to investigate and prosecute those individuals and entities that violate federal law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alice H. Martin".

ALICE H. MARTIN  
United States Attorney