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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

July 29, 2021

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Attorney General Garland and Director Wray:

I write to you in the wake of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tionda and Diamond Bradley's tragic disappearance. As you may know, on July 6, 2001, Tionda and Diamond Bradley were reported missing from their mother's South Side Chicago home at the ages of 3 and 10, respectively. They were never found. Unfortunately, this case, while tragic, is not unique. A great deal of similarly heinous missing person and murder crimes involving minority women and girls remain unsolved. In addition, children of color are often initially classified as runaways rather than missing — meaning that they do not receive a timely Amber Alert that is all too often critical to solving these types of cases. Considering the severity of this problem and your shared commitment to equity and justice, I urge you to establish a task force to address the backlog of unsolved missing person and murder cases, particularly those pertaining to Black women and girls.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Crime Information Center's (NCIC) Missing Person and Unidentified Person Statistics, Black victims — in particular, Black women and girls — are overrepresented in missing person case files relative to their share of the population.<sup>1</sup> The FBI's most recent data shows a similar trend in the estimated number of murder

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<sup>1</sup> "2020 NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person Statistics," FBI.GOV, February 4, 2021, <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/2020-ncic-missing-person-and-unidentified-person-statistics.pdf/view>; "2016 NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person Statistics," FBI.gov, January 10, 2017, <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/2015-ncic-missing-person-and-unidentified-person-statistics.pdf/view>; "United States Census Bureau Quick Facts," Census.gov, n.d., <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>; "U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey Demographics," Census.gov, n.d.,

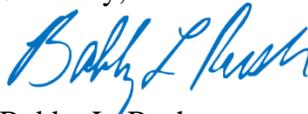
cases within these groups.<sup>2</sup> It is further concerning that the national murder clearance rate, or the number of people charged for such crimes, has dropped by 30 percent since 1965.<sup>3</sup> This means that all too often, the perpetrators of these heinous crimes are left at large.

These trends hold true in places like my hometown of Chicago. According to NPR, only 4 out of every 10 murders are solved in Chicago. In addition to this, only 22 percent of murders involving Black victims are solved in comparison to the 47 percent of cases solved for white victims.<sup>4</sup> In recent years, the *Chicago Tribune* also reported that 55 unsolved killings of Chicago women may be linked to a possible serial killer.<sup>5</sup> On May 17, 2019, I wrote Director Wray to bring this matter to the FBI's attention (a copy of which is attached).<sup>6</sup>

In view of these circumstances, I request that you develop a task force to address the backlog of unsolved missing person and murder cases in communities across the country, including on the South Side of Chicago. Such a task force should develop a strategy to tackle this backlog through close coordination with Federal, state, and local officials. Further, this task force should assess current practices and determine what strategies are necessary to specifically address cases involving minority woman and children — especially those within Black communities.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Enclosure

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<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?id=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Data%20Profiles&tid=ACSDP5Y2016.DP05>.

<sup>2</sup> “2019 Crime in the United States Expanded Homicide Data Table 1,” FBI.gov, 2019, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-1.xls>; “United States Census Bureau Quick Facts,” Census.gov, n.d., <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219>.

<sup>3</sup> “America’s Declining Homicide Clearance Rates 1965-2019,” The Murder Accountability Project, n.d., <http://www.murderdata.org/p/reported-homicide-clearance-rate-1980.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Chip Mitchell, “Chicago’s Dismal Murder Solve Rate Even Worse When Victims Are Black,” Npr.org, 2019, <https://www.npr.org/local/309/2019/10/09/768552458/chicago-s-dismal-murder-solve-rate-even-worse-when-victims-are-black>.

<sup>5</sup> Annie Sweeney, “Chicago Police Are Taking a New Look at the Unsolved Slayings of 55 Women — and the Possibility a Serial Killer Is Involved,” *chicagotribune.com*, May 14, 2019, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/breaking/ct-met-strangled-women-chicago-police-task-force-20190510-story.html>.

<sup>6</sup> “Rush Sends Letter to FBI about Missing and Murdered Chicago Women,” *Rush.house.gov*, May 17, 2019, <https://rush.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rush-sends-letter-to-fbi-about-missing-and-murdered-chicago-women>.