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June 25, 2015

The Honorable Loretta L. Lynch
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

I am writing to you today to demand justice for fallen Bureau of Prisons correctional officer Jose Rivera, who was attacked and killed by Joseph Cabrera-Sablan at the Atwater Penitentiary in California almost seven years ago, on June 20, 2008. Officer Rivera was ambushed, held down, and stabbed multiple times with homemade weapons. Jose Rivera dedicated his life to protecting America – before becoming a correctional officer he served in the U.S. Navy for four years. His family, and his memory, deserve justice. I ask that you urge the U.S. Attorney to seek the death penalty in the case against Joseph Cabrera-Sablan. If Joseph Cabrera-Sablan is only given a life sentence, which he was already serving when he killed Officer Rivera, there will be no deterrent on other inmates attacking correctional officers with deadly force.

As Attorney General you have an obligation to do everything in your power to keep every member of America's law enforcement community safe while on the job – and this includes federal correctional officers. In addition to the Cabrera-Sablan trial, we are also awaiting decisions in the cases of Correctional Officer Eric Williams and Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati who were murdered in 2013. If the U.S. Attorney does not seek the death penalty in the Cabrera-Sablan case, the Justice Department will send a message to every inmate in the Bureau of Prisons that it's okay to murder a correctional officer. That is not justice for our fallen officers, and it certainly isn't justice for their families.

Federal correctional officers put their lives on the line every single day. They keep America safe by making sure the most dangerous criminals in the country are taken off the street and secured behind bars. I urge you not to make their jobs more dangerous, by implicitly giving inmates the signal that they can kill our correctional officers without fear of retaliation. You must send a message to every inmate at every facility that you will have zero tolerance when it comes to protecting the lives of federal correctional officers.

Sincerely,

J. David Cox Sr.
National President