PETITION TO THE NEW U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL:
PLEASE ENFORCE FEDERAL OBSCENITY LAWS AGGRESSIVELY!

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that obscene material is "unprotected by the First Amendment" and that there are "legitimate governmental interests" at stake in stemming the tide of obscenity, "*even assuming it is feasible to enforce effective safeguards against exposure to juveniles*." It is all too clear, however, that we have failed miserably in protecting children from pornography.

According to a study by the Crimes Against Children's Resource Center, the percentage of Internet users ages 10-17 who were exposed to *unwanted* pornography in the previous year increased from 25% in 2000 to 34% in 2005. According to a 2004 survey by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, 45% of teens have friends who regularly view pornography from the Internet.

In 1996, Congress enacted legislation to prohibit Internet obscenity; and in 2002, a Report issued by the National Research Council said "aggressive enforcement" of obscenity laws could help reduce children's access to Internet pornography. A poll conducted in 2005 by Harris Interactive found that 77% of adult Americans support the Justice Department's effort to enforce federal obscenity laws. Your predecessors said enforcement of federal obscenity laws was a Justice Department "priority."

Most Federal prosecutors, however, have not enforced obscenity laws; and as a result, a floodtide of hardcore pornography is pouring through the Internet into countless American homes, where even small children can be exposed to obscenity and older children can easily find it. Obscenity also pours unhindered into our communities through pay TV channels and video/DVD rentals and sales.

In addition to corrupting children's minds, obscenity also contributes to the breakup of marriages, to sexual crimes against adults and children, and to the decline in morality and decency. The flood of obscenity emanating from the U.S. also tarnishes our national image in the war against terrorism.

Please protect children and all Americans from debasing hardcore pornography by ensuring that the United States Justice Department enforces federal obscenity laws aggressively.

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Send Petitions To: Morality in Media, 475 Riverside Dr., Ste. 1264, New York, NY 10115