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**January 6, 2017**

**Senator Grassley**  
**Chairman, Committee on Judiciary**  
**224 Dirksen Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

**Senator Feinstein**  
**Ranking Member, Committee on Judiciary**  
**152 Dirksen Senate Office Building**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

**Dear Sir or Madam:**

I graduated from Harvard Law School in 1969. My husband is a 1970 graduate of Harvard Law School. We returned to the South in 1971, filled with hope and a commitment to build a New South. We organized several institutions and events including the Campaign for a New South, the Alabama New South Coalition, two museums and the Bridge Crossing Jubilee, among other organizations and institutions. The Bridge Crossing Jubilee is an national celebration of the right to vote. We worked closely with Albert Turner and other civil rights leaders to secure and advance voting rights.

In spite of the victories that flowed from the Voting Rights Act, efforts to suppress the voting rights of African American citizens persisted. Yet, we did not anticipate that Jeff Sessions, the U.S. Attorney in 1984, would maliciously target voting right activists in the Alabama Black Belt for prosecution and removal from the political scene. Albert Turner had effectively organized the Perry County Civic League to address the fear that kept most African Americans from even trying to register to vote in Perry County. His bold leadership caught the attention of Dr. Martin Luther King, who appointed him as State Director of SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference). Albert called upon Attorney General Robert Kennedy to help crack what seem to be an impenetrable wall that blocked Black citizens from voting booths. He responded by sending

Nicholas Kazenbach, who personally oversaw the registering of 300 Black voters in Perry County in 1963. By contrast, Lowndes County did not have a single Black registered voter before the Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965.

Marion, Alabama, was the ideal place for Jeff Sessions to initiate his witch hunt. His mission was painfully reminiscent of the successful efforts of white supremacist to generate fear to rob Black men of the political success achieved during the Reconstruction Era of American History. Back then, Klan violence was allowed and encouraged to achieve the disenfranchisement of Black men. Jeff Sessions recognized that the same goal could be achieved through the prosecution of effective Black leaders. Albert Turner was the most effective and well-known Black community leader in the Alabama Black Belt.

As a member of the legal team that represented Albert Turner, his wife, Evelyn and Spencer Hogue, I witnessed firsthand the frivolous cases against them. In my 15 years of practice at that time, I had never known an integrated jury to find a Black citizen not guilty on criminal charges. The verdict to free the Marion 3 of more than 100 criminal counts was unprecedented. Following the exoneration of the Marion 3, five citizens from nearby Greene County were also exonerated. The only white person indicted, who was also acquitted, was a close ally of the black community. I also represented her.

For the past 25 years, my husband, Senator Hank Sanders and I have assumed the leadership in organizing the “Bloody Sunday” March re-enactment every year. It is the largest annual celebration of the right to vote in the nation. In 2015, Senator Jeff Sessions attended the celebration along with President Obama and over 100,000 people from all over the nation. Sessions attendance at the Commemoration is not evidence of a changed heart. His consistent attacks on voting rights and civil rights is evident of the agenda he demonstrated in the 80s. When he met Evelyn Turner face to face last year at a congressional ceremony to honor foot soldiers of the movement, he offered no regrets or apology for his efforts to imprison her and her husband for the remainder of their lives.

Ms. Turner, now 80 years old, still suffers from the emotional scars of that “persecution”. I had to urge her to give an affidavit to the Committee and to give interviews to the media. She said she relives the terrible ordeal each time she remembers and vocalizes that memory. Unfortunately, her son, Albert Turner, Jr., is more committed to political opportunism than truth. He was in college, removed from Session’s witch hunt to persecute his parents in 1985. On my radio show, his mother, Ms. Evelyn Turner, stated that her son was “brainwashed”. When asked by a CNN reporter how she compared Robert Kennedy, (who assisted her husband in 1963), with Jeff Sessions, she said “It’s like comparing God with the Devil.”

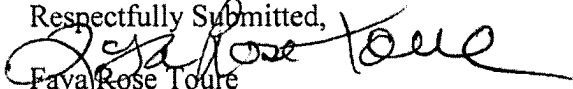
I write to encourage the Committee to reject the appointment of Jeff Sessions for his past and current white supremacist views and actions. He was appointed by a man who embraces the same views that dominated the old South. I also represented Shirley Sherrod in the Black Farmers

case. Ms. Sherrod was falsely accused by the founder of Breitbart News for racist actions against a white farmer. This allegation proved to be false after Ms. Sherrod was dismissed from her job.

President-Elect Trump has selected Stephen Bannor, a Chairman of the Breitbart News Network, as his Senior Advisor, which demonstrates his agenda in selecting Jeff Session as Attorney General. Jeff Sessions, however, is in a more dangerous position to shake and even dismantle the foundation of our democracy. Equal justice for all is an essential part of that foundation.

Last week, a white judge in Selma, Alabama expressed his grave concern that a Black District Attorney and Police Chief arranged and allowed a young Black emotionally disturbed young man to remain in jail for a year and a half for a crime he did not commit. Ultimately, it is not the color of the skin or one's political persuasion that will determine who will get justice. America's democracy depends on the character and strength of men and women who can dispense justice without regard to race, gender, class, age or religious affiliation. The highest law enforcement office must embody that character and strength if America's fragile democracy is to survive and thrive.

Senator Jeff Sessions will make America "great again" for the Confederate South and people who do not believe that justice should be for all. America's era of lawless and unjust treatment of some of her children and citizens of color cannot be returned. Keep Senator Sessions in the U.S. Senate.

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Faya Rose Toure  
Civil Rights Attorney