

040- 95

PUBLIC COMMENT OF  
THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
and the  
COMMITTEE AGAINST THE DISCRIMINATORY CRACK LAW  
on  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENTENCING GUIDELINES  
derived from the  
COMMISSION'S SPECIAL REPORT TO CONGRESS:  
COCAINE AND FEDERAL SENTENCING POLICY

APRIL 10, 1995

submitted by  
Nkechi Taifa  
legislative counsel, ACLU

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is a nonpartisan organization of over 275,000 members nationwide dedicated to the defense and enhancement of civil liberties. Because protection of the Bill of Rights stands at the core of our mission, we have a particular interest in ensuring that equal protection of the law and freedom from disproportionate punishment are upheld wherever threatened.

The ACLU is a founding member of the Committee Against the Discriminatory Crack Law, which is a non-partisan coalition of over 20 criminal justice, civil and human rights, and religious organizations, who have joined together to educate the public and Congress about the unwarranted disparity in cocaine law sentencing.

In addition to the ACLU, other member organizations of the Committee Against the Discriminatory Crack Law include the Americans for Democratic Action, Center for the Study of Harassment of African Americans, Criminal Justice Policy Foundation, Drug Policy Foundation, Families Against Discriminative Crack Law, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Association of Black Social Workers, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, National Black Police Association, National Committee Against Repressive Legislation, National Conference of Black Lawyers, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, National Islamic Political Foundation, National Lawyers' Guild, National Rainbow Coalition, National Urban

League, The Sentencing Project, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the Special Committee on Racism and the Drug War.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Committee Against the Discriminatory Crack Law hereby adopt the "Statement of Federal Public and Community Defenders on Proposed Amendments to Sentencing Guidelines published March 15, 1995" submitted to this Commission on April 10, 1995. For ease of reference a copy of that statement is attached.

###