



Georgia General Assembly
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

April 26, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

We write regarding the January 18th, 2023 fatal shooting of Manuel “Tortuguita” Esteban Paez Teran in Dekalb County at the designated site of a future Atlanta Public Safety Training Center.

As you may know, the DeKalb County Medical Examiner’s Office official autopsy report was publicly released on April 19, 2023. The report raised many questions that we believe are important to definitively answer. Shortly thereafter, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) released additional information.

We believe that the ongoing release of information by the GBI in context with the report from the Dekalb County Medical Examiner’s Office raises questions that warrant an independent investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice. We believe it is essential that a credible investigation be conducted that gathers and releases the necessary information to ensure public confidence in the investigatory and law enforcement process.

As such, we respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Justice conduct a thorough independent investigation into the persistent pattern of misconduct within state law enforcement agencies, to include but not limited to the January 18, 2023 incident.

Sincerely,

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Sen. Nabilah Islam
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