



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
JUSTICE/CRIME/AMERICAN INDIAN REPORTERS AND EDITORS**

February 16, 2006

Contact: Mark Glaze, 202-271-0982

MEDIA ADVISORY

**BIPARTISAN FEDERAL PANEL TO HOLD HEARINGS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE
IN LOCKUPS, AMERICAN INDIAN FACILITIES**

Commission Also to Consider Texas' Response to Prison Rape Elimination Act

Austin, Texas – The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission (NPREC) will conduct public hearings on the problem of sexual violence in lockup facilities and Native American facilities on **March 26th** and **27th** at the University of Texas School of Law in **Austin, Texas**. The panels will include leading experts in law enforcement, correctional oversight and safety, tribal facilities, and others.

The bipartisan Commission was created by the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 to develop zero-tolerance national standards for enhancing the detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of prison sexual assault. Congress found that almost a million prisoners had been sexually assaulted in the twenty years prior to the act's passage.

Next month's hearing – **"Lockups and Native American Detention Facilities"** – will be the Commission's eighth public event. In addition to examining lockups and Native American detention facilities, the Commission will hear from representatives of the Texas criminal justice system and others for a discussion of the Texas system and its response to the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

To learn more about the Commission and prior hearings, please visit www.nprec.us.

WHAT: Public Hearing: Lockups and Native American Detention Facilities
Full Schedule and Participants TBA

WHEN: March 26 and 27, 2007

WHERE: The University of Texas School of Law
The Eidman Courtroom
727 E. Dean Keeton Street
Austin, Texas 78705

#