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August 22, 2011

Cyrus Vance, District Attorney
New York County
One Hogan Place
New York, NY 10007

Subject: August 23rd Court Date Regarding People of State NY vs. Dominique Strauss-Kahn (DSK)

Dear District Attorney Vance:

As we approach the twice delayed and long awaited August 23rd court date for DSK the rumors and news reports that your office will be dismissing the case are increasingly growing. If true this will be a travesty for all rape victims and for "due process".

Compelling evidence prompted the NYPD to arrest Mr. Strauss-Kahn and a judge to order him held without bail initially. A grand jury subsequently indicted Mr. Strauss-Kahn on several counts of criminal behavior which included:

- Two Counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree in violation of Penal Law 130.50(1).
- An Attempt to Commit the Crime of Rape in the First Degree in violation of Penal Law 110/130.35 (1).
- Sexual Abuse in the First Degree in violation of Penal Law 130.65 (11).
- Unlawful Imprisonment in the Second Degree in violation of Penal Law 135.05.
- Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree in violation of Penal Law 130.55.
- Forcible Touching in violation of Penal Law 132.52.

In the events following Strauss-Kahn's indictment the media has repeatedly reported pieces of information allegedly leaked from your office that have unfortunately negatively impacted this case and has contributed to a media trial of the case. The ongoing rumors and alleged leaks that your office plans to dismiss the case is compounding matters further and validating this media nightmare.

According to the grand jury, evidently a very serious and terrible crime was committed against Nafissatou Diallo. We cannot be or appear to be guided by unfounded information, slanderous attacks or details about an individual's past that have nothing to do with the case at hand. It takes enormous courage for any victim to report crimes of this nature. I applaud Ms. Diallo for that courage and the



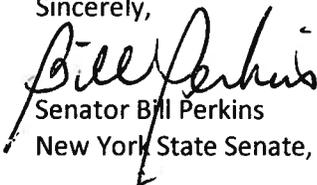
continuing strength she has exhibited under extreme public scrutiny. She deserves her day in court. This case must be brought to trial.

In the interest of justice for not only Ms. Diallo but also for any other woman who is the victim of a sexual attack or; any other immigrant who is the victim of a crime or simply; any other individual victimized by a powerful person, this case needs to be heard in court and decided by the jury. We cannot afford to have the fate of the accuser or the accused determined by the media. This case has far reaching implications beyond Manhattan, New York City, New York State and this nation for that matter. How we proceed will be viewed by the entire world.

As you know it has been my position and the position of this coalition all along that Ms. Diallo should have her day in court. I and the Coalition of organizations and individuals listed below strongly urge the District Attorney's office to aggressively pursue this case and seek justice.

Coalition Members include: Senator Bill Perkins, Assemblyman Eric Stevenson, Coalition of 100 Black Women, Dr. Abdoulaye Balde, Imam Souleimane Konate, KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights, Women In Islam, Inc, Mirabal Sisters Family Center, Dominican Women Development Center, National Latinas Caucus, National Organization for Women (NOW)- New York State, Violence Intervention Program, Women In Islam Inc., Pottal Fii Bhantal Fouta Djallon (United for the Development of Fouta Djallon), Turning Point for Women and Families, Gloria Steinem, Coalition Against Trafficking of Women, Equality Now, Louise F. Fitzgerald, PhD, HOLLABACK!, Catharine A. MacKinnon, The National Dominican Women's Caucus, Prostitution Research and Education, Sanctuary for Families, The Rebecca Project for Human Rights, African National Congress, Council on American Islamic Relations, African People Alliance Inc., CAIR- Zead Ramadan, President, 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement Who Care, Senegalese Association of America, Murid Islamic Community in America, Allah School in Mecca.

Sincerely,


Senator Bill Perkins
New York State Senate, 30th District