

SENT VIA EMAIL: OperationLadyJustice@usdoj.gov

September 3, 2020

Dear Operation Lady Justice Task Force,

My name is [INSERT HERE]. I am a resident of [INSERT HERE] and I am writing to demand justice for Kaysera Stops Pretty Places.

On August 24, 2019, Kaysera Stops Pretty Places went missing in a suburban neighborhood of Hardin, Montana, less than a half mile off of the Crow Reservation. On the morning of August 29, her body was found in that same neighborhood. Law enforcement did not inform the family that Kaysera's body had been found until almost two weeks later on September 11.

Days before Kaysera went missing, she filmed and posted to social media the beating of her 15-year-old brother by law enforcement at Crow Fair. The officers beating the minor in a wheelchair included Big Horn County deputies. The U.S. Attorney's Office investigated the incident and officers were reprimanded. There is reason to believe that one of the Big Horn County Sheriff's deputies under investigation for the scene filmed by Kaysera was a responding officer when her body was discovered.

Despite the suspicious circumstances surrounding Kaysera's death, the FBI, the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office, and the Montana Department of Justice have done absolutely nothing to investigate. Kaysera's family has provided the authorities with tips and evidence to aid the investigation yet they continue to be ignored.

It is the job of the Operation Lady Justice Task Force to make justice happen. Your job is to ensure Native girls like Kaysera receive justice and are not ignored and forgotten by the very organizations put in place to protect them. Tips must be followed up on, questions need to be asked, and comprehensive investigations must take place.

It is also a duty of the Task Force to be transparent. Not only do the families of murdered Native girls and peoples deserve justice, they deserve to be informed about how investigations are progressing, or as in Kaysera's case, how they are not progressing at all. It is utterly disrespectful to keep victims' families in the dark and force them to investigate the murders and disappearances of their family members themselves.

Without transparency and communication between the Task Force, families, and state and federal authorities, there will continue to be cases like Kaysera's where the murder of Native girls and women go uninvestigated. The Task Force must ensure that these cases do not get lost in a jurisdictional void and become forgotten. A way the Task Force could guarantee accountability in this regard is by facilitating an interagency review team comprised of individuals who are knowledgeable and actually care about finding justice for Native women and girls. There can be no more hollow gestures when the lives and legacies of our families are on the line.

We are aware that the Task Force intends to establish “a multi-disciplinary, multi-jurisdictional team including representatives from Tribal law enforcement and the DOJ and DOI to review cold cases.” This Task Force must investigate Kaysera’s murder since, at this point one year later, it is clear that the FBI, the Big Horn County Sheriff’s Department, and the Montana Department of Justice will not.

The Operation Lady Justice Task Force, FBI, Big Horn County Sheriff’s Department, and the Montana Department of Justice must do their job and investigate. The absence of accountability of federal and local law enforcement is inexcusable and justice must be found for Kaysera and her family.

Sincerely,
[INSERT YOUR NAME]