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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Sending in ATF Shamefully Inadequate Response to Chicago Crisis
A statement by Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.**



Chicago is in crisis. The violence that claimed nearly 800 men, women and children last year shows no signs of letting up in 2017. At least 51 homicides were recorded in January. More than 300 people were shot.

Sending in 20 additional agents from the U.S., Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is a shamefully inadequate response to the emergency of drugs in, guns in, jobs out. It is coy flirtation with an urban policy when a robust and thoughtful action plan is needed.

We cannot police poverty which is at the root of so much of the violence. We do not need more agents. We need more social workers and teachers. We need the U.S. Department of Labor; the Department of Housing; the Department of Health; the Department of Commerce; the Department of Transportation; the Department of Education.

We need a White House conference on violence, causes and cures, racial and gender disparities and the impact of poverty on the body, mind and soul. We need a policy of urban reinvestment and reconstruction.

Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
Founder and President

Rainbow PUSH Coalition

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Rainbow PUSH Coalition is a multi-racial, multi-issue, progressive, international organization that was formed in December 1996 by the Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. through merging of two organizations he founded Operation PUSH People United to Serve Humanity (estab. 1971) and the Rainbow Coalition (estab. 1984). With headquarters in Chicago and offices in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York and Oakland, the organization works to make the American Dream a reality for all citizens while advocating for peace and justice around the world. RPC is dedicated to improving the lives of all people by serving as a voice for the voiceless. Its mission is to protect, defend and gain civil rights by leveling the economic and educational playing fields while promoting peace and justice around the world.

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Keep up with Rev. Jackson and the work of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition at www.rainbowpush.org.