

Gonzales says problems in Justice Dept.

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' career was on the line Tuesday as he faced questioning by the Senate Judiciary Committee in Washington. The Democrat-controlled committee has made no secret it wants Gonzales removed in light of recent investigations that eight U.S. attorneys were fired for partisan reasons. Monday, Gonzales released a statement he prepared for the committee in which he said the partisan allegations "have been troubling to hear," but said he was committed to rectifying any problems in the department. "I could walk away or I could devote my time, effort and energy to fix the problems," his statement said. "Since I have never been one to quit, I decided that the best course of action was to remain here and fix the problems. That is exactly what I am doing." Gonzales has said the attorney firings are being investigated by the inspector general and that he has removed himself from the inquiry.

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