



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David R. Dugas  
Middle District of Louisiana

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## **FOUR MORE INDICTED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CHARGES**

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today that a federal grand jury returned indictments against four more Louisiana residents on federal FEMA fraud charges.

MONIQUE C. PRESTON, age 24, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged in a two-count indictment with making false and fraudulent claims for disaster assistance benefits and with making false and fraudulent statements to FEMA. The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General. If convicted, PRESTON faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine per count.

BILLY R. JAMES, age 30, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged in a two-count indictment with making false and fraudulent claims for disaster assistance benefits and with making false and fraudulent statements to FEMA. The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If convicted, JAMES faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine per count.

IVORY PROFIT, age 30, of Baton Rouge was charged in an indictment with eight counts of making false and fraudulent claims for disaster assistance benefits and eight counts of illegal use of a Social Security Number, and DE'ONDRA PROFIT, age 34, of Baton Rouge was charged with illegal conversion of government property, that is, two checks from FEMA for expedited disaster assistance. These charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Secret Service; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General; the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General, and the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office. If convicted, IVORY PROFIT faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine per count, and DE'ONDRA PROFIT faces a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

These individuals bring the total number of defendants who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to FEMA relief funds to twenty-six.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the

Criminal Division – includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Postal Inspector’s Office, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, among others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443.

NOTE: An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until and unless she is proven guilty at trial.

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