



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Alabama

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ALABAMA RESIDENT SENTENCED FOR FEMA FRAUD FOLLOWING
HURRICANE KATRINA

MOBILE, Ala. - Jason Endo Lawson, 45, of Mobile, Alabama, was ordered to repay \$2,000 to FEMA and sentenced to three years probation following his conviction for Fraud, United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes announced today.

Lawson was named in a one-count indictment by the July 2006 Federal Grand Jury for the Southern District of Alabama in Mobile, Alabama. Count one charges that on or about September 24, 2005, the defendant made and presented to the Federal Emergency Management Agency a false claim for disaster assistance following Hurricane Katrina upon and against the United States Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 287.

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney E.T. Rolison.

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 Fisher of the Criminal Division - includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive office for U.S. Attorneys, and others.

Anyone with information about fraudulent activity is encouraged to report it immediately through the Hurricane Relief Fraud hotline at 1-866-720-5721, or via email at katrinafraud@dodig.mil.

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