



# Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Dunn Lampton  
Southern District of Mississippi**

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## **KATRINA FRAUD INDICTMENTS CONTINUE**

Jackson, Mississippi - United States Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today that a federal grand jury has returned four more indictments relating to Katrina Fraud.

CHARLES LYLES, of Brookhaven, Mississippi, is charged in a fourteen count indictment with making three different false statements to FEMA for hurricane relief benefits, and with mail fraud schemes designed to defraud FEMA of hurricane relief benefits as well as hotel accommodations paid for by FEMA. If convicted on all fourteen counts of the indictment, LYLES faces a maximum of 235 years in prison and a \$3.5 million fine.

RICHARD T. ROBERTS, of Jackson, Mississippi, is charged in a six count indictment with making a false statement to FEMA for hurricane relief benefits, and with mail fraud schemes designed to defraud FEMA of hurricane relief benefits as well as hotel accommodations paid for by FEMA. If convicted on all six counts, ROBERTS faces a maximum of 90 years in prison and a \$1.5 million fine.

LATOYA MILLER, of Brookhaven, Mississippi, is charged in a four count indictment with making a false statement to FEMA for hurricane relief benefits and with a mail fraud scheme designed to defraud FEMA of hurricane relief benefits. If convicted on all four counts, MILLER faces a maximum of 50 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

SANDRA MARTINEZ, of Pearl, Mississippi, is charged in a four count indictment with making a false statement to FEMA for hurricane relief benefits and with a Mail Fraud scheme designed to defraud FEMA of hurricane relief benefits. If convicted on all four counts, MARTINEZ faces a maximum of 50 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

“The number of Katrina Fraud investigations continue to significantly increase weekly and the Katrina Fraud Task Force will continue with a zero tolerance policy for any person who has committed fraud in connection with the relief and rebuilding effort following Katrina.” said US Attorney Lampton.

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 of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force was formed. Recognizing the significance of this event, over twenty federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have come together to jointly pursue and prosecute individuals who file false and fraudulent claims. The joint task force has also been working with county and local law enforcement in this effort.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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