



Department of Justice

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THREE MORE PLEAD GUILTY IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, TO FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that three more Louisiana residents pled guilty yesterday in federal court to violations related to Hurricane Katrina relief funds.

JAMIE MOORE, age 20, REGAN J. BENNIE, age 25, and EDDIE G. CONERLY, age 51, residents of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, each pled guilty to Count One of indictments charging them with making false and fraudulent claims for disaster relief benefits. As part of the plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office will dismiss Count Two of the indictments when these defendants are sentenced on Count One.

As a result of the guilty pleas, MOORE, BENNIE, and CONERLY each face a sentence of imprisonment of a maximum of five (5) years and a \$250,000 fine, or both.

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. This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General.

The total number of defendants who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to Hurricane Katrina relief funds stands at forty-seven.

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.

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