



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Shana Jones, Special Assistant  
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7452

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**MIDLAND MAN INDICTED AND ARRESTED IN HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced the indictment and arrest this morning of Charles E. Gasper of Midland, Texas, for fraud relating to hurricane Katrina emergency assistance.

On November 16, 2005, a federal grand jury in Midland returned a one count indictment against Gasper charging him with False Representation of Social Security Number. According to the indictment, on September 29, 2005, Gasper falsely used a number, which he alleged to be his Social Security number, for the purpose of obtaining Hurricane Katrina related emergency assistance from the Red Cross, for which he was not eligible.

Upon conviction, Gasper faces up to five years in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine.

This case was investigated by the Social Security Administration - Office of Inspector General together with the Midland Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

**An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.**

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 the United States Attorneys, among others.

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