



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Bud Cummins
Eastern District of Arkansas**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2006
WWW.USDOJ.GOV

CONTACT: BUD CUMMINS
TEL: (501) 340-2650
FAX: (501) 340-2728

**GRAND JURY INDICTS TWO WOMEN
ON HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD CHARGES**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Sakithia Dawn Slaughter and Marteisha Renee Monts were indicted today by a federal grand jury on three counts of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) fraud charges, U.S. Attorney Bud Cummins of the Eastern District of Arkansas announced today.

Slaughter, 26, of Pine Bluff, Ark., was charged with filing a false claim against the government and four counts of wire fraud. The indictment alleges that Slaughter filed one claim for FEMA benefits for hurricane damage to what she falsely claimed was her primary residence in New Orleans. The indictment also alleges that Slaughter received FEMA benefits for lodging in Pine Bluff, Ark. on four separate occasions.

Monts, 28, of North Little Rock, Ark., was charged with filing a false claim against the government. The indictment alleges that Monts filed one claim for FEMA benefits for hurricane damage to what she falsely claimed was her primary residence in New Orleans.

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 including charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The 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.

The Slaughter charges resulted from an investigation by the FBI. The Monts charges resulted from an investigation by the U.S. Secret Service. The filing of a false claim count carries a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The four wire fraud counts each carry a maximum of 30 years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

An indictment contains only allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

###