



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Mississippi

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TWO MISSISSIPPI WOMEN SENTENCED FOR HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD

JACKSON, Miss - Patricia Anderson and Rebecca Brown, both of Woodville, Mississippi, pled guilty and were sentenced in U.S. District Court today for theft of Katrina disaster assistance relief funds, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced. Anderson and Brown each received \$2,000.00 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for damage allegedly due to Hurricane Katrina. Both defendants were sentenced to 3 years probation. In addition, they must each perform 40 hours of community service and pay \$1,000.00 in restitution to FEMA.

In September, 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the national 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 for the Criminal Division, Alice S. Fisher, includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, 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, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes.

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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