



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Alabama

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## **Montgomery Woman Pleads Guilty to Hurricane Katrina Fraud**

**MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA**—United States Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today that Sukita Temaya Hamilton, age 25, of Montgomery, Alabama, pled guilty yesterday to one count of theft of government property for her role in fraudulently cashing disaster assistance checks from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) intended for victims of Hurricane Katrina. As part of her plea agreement, Hamilton has agreed to repay FEMA \$4,000 in restitution. Hamilton's sentencing will be scheduled for a later date in front of United States District Judge Myron Thompson.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama is a member of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, created by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales in September 2005 to deter, detect, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes. The Task Force, chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of DOJ's Criminal Division, is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, and United States Attorneys' Offices from the Gulf Coast region and nationwide.

This matter was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, and the United States Postal Inspection Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher A. Snyder. Thus far, the Middle District of

Alabama has charged a total of eighteen Hurricane Katrina and Rita fraud-related cases involving nineteen different defendants.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721.

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