



# Department of Justice

## United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007  
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CONTACT: SHEILA WILBANKS  
PHONE: (601) 965-4480  
FAX: (601) 965-4409

### **2 MISSISSIPPIANS ARRESTED FOR HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD**

Gulfport, Mississippi - United States Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today that two more individuals have been arrested for FEMA fraud.

**Mandi D. Ely**, of Saucier, Mississippi, was arrested on January, 31 2007 for making false statements to FEMA for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds. Ely was indicted on January 24, 2007, for receiving \$4,358.00 from FEMA by providing a false address in Saucier, Mississippi, claiming hurricane damage at that address. If convicted of these crimes she faces up to 25 years in prison and up to \$500,000.00 in fines.

**Teresa M. Baumgart**, of Saucier, Mississippi, was arrested on January 31, 2007 for making false statements to FEMA for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds. Baumgart was indicted on January 24, 2007, for receiving \$6,914.63 from FEMA by providing a false address in Saucier, Mississippi, claiming hurricane damage at that address. If convicted of these crimes she faces up to 25 years in prison and up to \$500,000.00 in fines.

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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