



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Leura G. Canary  
Middle District of Alabama

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## **GREENVILLE WOMAN INDICTED AND DETAINED ON HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA— United States Attorney Leura G. Canary announced today that Alethia Adrienne Scott, age 39, of Greenville, Alabama, was detained this morning in relation to a federal indictment, which alleges that Scott fraudulently obtained disaster assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

The indictment, returned by a Montgomery, Alabama, Grand Jury on August 15, 2006, alleges Scott submitted an application for benefits to FEMA claiming that she had suffered damage to a trailer she owned as her primary residence in Stockton, Alabama. In fact, Scott did not reside in Stockton, did not own a trailer, and did not suffer the losses claimed.

As a result of the false claims, Scott received four checks totaling \$26,200. Scott has been charged with four counts of theft of government property, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641. If convicted of all four counts, the statutory maximum penalty is forty years imprisonment.

Scott was arrested by the U.S. Marshals Service on August 18, 2006, and her detention hearing was held today before Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Charles Coody. Scott was detained after Judge Coody determined there were no conditions or combination of conditions that could ensure her appearance at trial. Trial has been set for October 30, 2006, before the Honorable 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 is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher A. Snyder. Thus far, the Middle District of Alabama has charged a total of fourteen Hurricane Katrina and Rita fraud-related cases.

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