



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2006

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HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEE SENTENCED FOR MAKING TELEPHONE BOMB THREAT TO RED CROSS RESPONSE CENTER

Mississippi man sentenced to year and a day in prison

MONROE, LA - A Hurricane Katrina evacuee from Mississippi who called the Red Cross and threatened to blow up targets related to FEMA, the Red Cross, and Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi was sentenced yesterday in U.S. District Court in Monroe, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. **BILLY WAYNE LIVINGSTON**, age 38, of Gulfport, Mississippi, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Robert G. James to spend one year and one day in prison.

On September 16, 2005, **LIVINGSTON**, who had evacuated from Gulfport, Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina and was staying in a hotel in the Monroe area, telephoned the Red Cross Response Center in Falls Church, Virginia and made the threats. The threats included the use of guns, grenades and mines against both people and property. **LIVINGSTON** was arrested the next day in Monroe, Louisiana by the FBI.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert W. Gillespie, Jr. and was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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 such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud 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 of United States Attorneys, among others.

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