

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Southern District of Florida

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NEWS RELEASE:

WEST PALM BEACH WOMAN ARRESTED

ON MULTIPLE CHARGES OF FEMA FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT

R. Alexander Acosta, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Donald Balberchak, Special Agent in Charge, Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General, Gerald Garren, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Department of Treasury - Office of Inspector General, and Roland H. Maye, Special Agent in Charge, Social Security Administration - Office of Inspector General, announced today the arrest of **Janelle Mauricia Green, 27**, of West Palm Beach, Florida, on charges for making false claims to the government, embezzlement of government property, and aggravated identity theft, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 287, 641, and 1028 (A)(a)(1), respectively.

According to the Indictment, Green submitted 13 fraudulent applications for damage allegedly caused by Hurricanes Frances, Jeanne, Katrina, Rita and Wilma, five hurricanes which made landfall in Florida and Louisiana between 2004 and 2005. The Indictment alleges that Green used multiple aliases, stolen Social Security numbers, and false information about her children in applications to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance. Based on the false information provided, Green received more than \$31,000.00 in federal assistance checks.

If convicted, Green faces a possible sentence of five years' imprisonment on Counts 1 - 13, 10 years' imprisonment on Counts 14 - 22. Additionally, Green faces a mandatory 2 year consecutive sentence for each conviction in Counts 1 - 22 for aggravated identity theft.

Green made her initial appearance in federal court today before United States Magistrate Judge Linnea R. Johnson. A pre-trial detention hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 10:00 am.

Mr. Acosta commended the investigative efforts of the agents from the Department of Homeland Security-Office of Inspector General, the Department of the Treasury - Office of Inspector General, and the Social Security Administration - Office of Inspector General for their work in the investigation of this case. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Emalyn Webber.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at www.flsd.uscourts.gov or on <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>.