



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8/10/06

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COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA MAN CHARGED WITH STEALING RED CROSS AND FEMA FUNDS INTENDED FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

Atlanta, GA -CLARENCE J. BROWN, 42 of College Park, Georgia, was arraigned today on federal charges of devising a scheme to defraud the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the American Red Cross of \$34,553.02 in Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "This defendant allegedly claimed that he was a victim of Hurricane Katrina, when in fact he was living in metropolitan Atlanta and employed full time by IBM. In doing so, he stole more than \$34,000 in federal and privately donated disaster assistance funds that was intended for the real victims of this horrible natural disaster. We will continue to prosecute these cases to the full extent of the law."

BROWN was arraigned today before United States Magistrate Judge C. Christopher Hagy. According to Nahmias and the documents and information presented in court: BROWN was indicted by a federal grand jury on August 8, 2006. The indictment charges that BROWN executed a scheme to defraud FEMA and the American Red Cross by falsely claiming that he resided at his sister's address in New Orleans on August 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina devastated that city, when in fact BROWN resided in College Park, Georgia, and was employed full time at an IBM office in Atlanta. According to the indictment, BROWN fraudulently received \$15,803.02 in Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds from FEMA and \$9,375 in Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds from the American Red Cross.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment only contains charges. The defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

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 for U.S. Attorneys, among others.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney William L. McKinnon, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.