



# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Michael K. Loucks  
District of Massachusetts

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TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2009  
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## MAN CHARGED WITH MULTIPLE FRAUD SCHEMES INCLUDING HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD, VISA APPLICATION, AND WIRE FRAUD

BOSTON, MA - A Boston man was arrested today after being charged by a federal grand jury with multiple counts involving visa fraud, social security fraud and fraud against the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") in connection with Hurricane Katrina.

Acting United States Attorney Michael K. Loucks; Bruce Foucart, Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Investigation in Boston; Jeff Paula, Special Agent in Charge of the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration; and Gregory K. Null, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, announced today that **FREDDIE GABRIEL**, age 65, whose last known residence was at 8 Track Street, Brockton, MA, was charged in an indictment with multiple counts of visa fraud, wire fraud, conversion of government funds, and fraud against the Social Security Administration.

The indictment alleges that **GABRIEL** held himself out to be, variously, Bishop Freddie Gabriel, the Rt. Rev. Freddie Gabriel and Dr. Freddie Gabriel, and claimed to be the director of a religious organization called the United Ministries of Boston. With respect to the visa fraud, it is further alleged that **GABRIEL** submitted and signed multiple forms on behalf of aliens seeking to enter the United States. **GABRIEL** sought to obtain religious worker visa for these aliens, falsely claiming that the aliens previously worked as religious workers in their native countries and were coming to the United States to work for the United Ministries of Boston. It is also alleged that **GABRIEL** falsely represented himself to be an accredited representative able to appear on behalf of an alien in Immigration Court.

Regarding the counts of wire fraud involving FEMA, the indictment alleges that **GABRIEL** falsely made application to FEMA claiming that he and his organization, now called the United Ministries of New Orleans, were victims of Hurricane Katrina, the 2005 hurricane that devastated the city of New Orleans. **GABRIEL** sought and received monies to replace his alleged home in New Orleans, and to reimburse him for medical expenses as well as living expenses in the Boston area.

The indictment also alleges that **GABRIEL**, who received supplemental security income or SSI from the Social Security Administration (SSA), failed to advise the SSA that he owned

property and received other monies while receiving SSI, which would have made him ineligible for those benefits.

If convicted on these charges, **GABRIEL** faces a maximum penalty of up to 30 years imprisonment and fines of up to \$1,000,000 on each of the wire fraud counts involving FEMA; imprisonment of up to ten years and fines of up to \$250,000 on each of the visa fraud counts and the conversion of government funds involving social security, and up to five years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the social security fraud count.

**GABRIEL** appeared today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Leo T. Sorokin for his initial appearance. The government moved for detention and a hearing is scheduled for July 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m.

The case was investigated by ICE's Office of Investigation; Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration; DHS's Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, and the Small Business Administration. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nadine Pellegrini, Acting Chief of Loucks's Major Crimes Unit.

The details contained in the indictment are allegations. The defendant is presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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