



Department of Justice

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ANOTHER SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that another Louisiana resident was sentenced yesterday on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program. KIMBERLY N. ST. CYR, age 24, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was convicted after a two-day jury trial on June 24, 2008, on one count of mail fraud and one count of illegal use of a Social Security number in connection with false and fraudulent applications she filed with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. ST. CYR filed applications with FEMA using fictitious New Orleans addresses and Social Security numbers that had not been assigned to her by the Social Security Administration.

ST. CYR was sentenced yesterday by Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ralph E. Tyson to a term of imprisonment of twenty-four months, a term of supervised release of three years following her incarceration, and \$2,000 in restitution. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General conducted the investigation of this matter with assistance from the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General, and the Louisiana Department of Labor.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds stands at one hundred seventy-two.

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 the Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. Department of Justice's Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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