



U.S. Department of Justice

***United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2006

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**NORTH LITTLE ROCK WOMAN INDICTED ON HURRICANE
KATRINA FRAUD CHARGES**

Little Rock -- United States Attorney Bud Cummins announced that a federal grand jury in the Eastern District of Arkansas returned a three count indictment yesterday against MONICA L. ANDERSON on Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) fraud charges.

ANDERSON, age 30, of North Little Rock, Arkansas, was charged with one count of filing a false claim against the government and two counts of wire fraud. The indictment alleges that ANDERSON filed one claim for FEMA benefits for hurricane damage to her primary residence in Slidell, Louisiana when in fact she was not entitled to the benefits. The indictment also alleges that ANDERSON received FEMA benefits for lodging in North Little Rock, Arkansas on two separate occasions.

The charges resulted from an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The filing of a false claim count carries a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a \$250,000 fine. The two wire fraud counts each carry a maximum term of imprisonment of thirty years and a \$1 million fine.

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 United States Attorneys, among others.

For further information, contact Bud Cummins, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, or Jane Duke, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (501) 340-2600.

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until and unless he or she is proven guilty at trial.

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