



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**US ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES ANOTHER ARREST FOR
POST HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD**

United States Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today the arrest of another individual for making false claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") for hurricane relief funds. On October 4, 2005, a criminal complaint was filed against Ebony Hawkins of Meridian, Mississippi. Hawkins was arrested today by Deputy U.S. Marshals, and is scheduled to appear before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. Sumner for an initial appearance today at 4:00 p.m.

According to the Affidavit filed in support of the charges, Hawkins submitted a claim for disaster relief, falsely claiming that she had damage to her residence as a result of Hurricane Katrina. As alleged in the Affidavit, Hawkins' residence received no damage from the hurricane. The maximum penalty for making fraudulent claims for relief funds is 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

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If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.