



# Department of Justice

## United States Attorney Dunn Lampton Southern District of Mississippi

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### **FIVE INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED FOR KATRINA FRAUD**

Gulfport, Miss. – Five individuals were arrested and appeared in U.S. District Court on Wednesday, August 13, in response to indictments returned by a federal grand jury alleging false claims to FEMA, the Mississippi Development Authority, the Small Business Administration and the Department of Agriculture for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today.

**Angela E. Pujol** of Pass Christian was charged in a six count indictment alleging that she filed a false claim for disaster assistance, made false statements to FEMA, stole government funds, and committed mail fraud. If convicted on each count, Pujol faces up to 80 years imprisonment and \$1,500,000.00 in fines.

**Beatrice Moses and Leverne Moses**, of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, were charged in an eleven count indictment alleging filing a false claim with FEMA, making a false statement to the Mississippi Development Authority, making a false statement to the Small Business Administration, making a false statement to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, theft of U.S. government funds, and mail fraud. If convicted on each count, Beatrice Moses faces up to 120 years imprisonment and \$2,750,000.00 in fines, and Leverne Moses faces up to 5 years imprisonment and \$250,000.00 in fines.

**William C. Breland, Jr.** of Pass Christian and **Amber D. Dungan** of Missouri were charged in an eleven count indictment alleging that Breland and Dungan filed false claims for disaster assistance, made false statements to FEMA, stole government funds, and committed mail fraud. If convicted on each count, Breland faces up to 85 years imprisonment and \$1,750,000.00 in fines. Dungan faces up to 45 years imprisonment and \$1,500,000.00 in fines.

In September, 2005, the United States Department of Justice created the national 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 Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Matthew Friedrich, includes members from the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, FBI, the Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with

the hurricanes. The Mississippi State Auditor Fraud Prevention and Protection Unit investigates allegations of fraud in the Homeowner Grant Program as part of the local task force.

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.

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