



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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TWO MORE INDICTED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, LA – Two more Louisiana residents were indicted in federal court today on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

BETTY R. MARTIN, age 41, of Port Allen, Louisiana, was charged in a two-count indictment by a federal grand jury with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits and with making false and fraudulent statements to FEMA. The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General; and the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office. If convicted, MARTIN faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, per count.

LISA M. WILLIAMS, age 38, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged in a three-count indictment by a federal grand jury with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits, making false and fraudulent statements to FEMA, and illegal use of a Social Security number. The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General; Social Security Administration; and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General. If convicted, WILLIAMS faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, per count.

Today's indictments bring the total number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds to eighty-four.

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 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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