



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAWTON MAN ARRESTED FOR FRAUD RELATED CHARGES
TO HURRICANE KATRINA

OKLAHOMA CITY — Atari Finley, 26, of Lawton, Okla., was sentenced to five months in prison for cashing a \$2,000 FEMA hurricane relief check obtained by fraud, U.S. Attorney John C. Richter for the Western District of Oklahoma, announced today. Finley was also ordered to serve five months of home confinement at the conclusion of his prison term and to pay restitution to FEMA.

According to a superseding indictment filed on Feb. 22, 2006, Finley cashed a Hurricane Katrina disaster relief check made out in his name on Sept. 23, 2005. When he entered a guilty plea on April 12 of this year, he admitted that he knew he was not entitled to any disaster relief money because he had never lived at the Louisiana address on his application for FEMA assistance.

A co-defendant in the case, Sheila A. Perry of Lawton, also pled guilty to obtaining Hurricane Katrina disaster relief money illegally and is scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 23.

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 U.S. Attorneys, among others.

This case was the result of an investigation conducted by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General, the U.S. Secret Service, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott E. Williams.

Reference is made to the superseding indictment, the judgment, and other public court filings for further information.

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