



NEWS RELEASE

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NORTH TEXANS INDICTED FOR FEMA FRAUD

(Sherman, Texas) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that three North Texans have been indicted in two separate cases of hurricane related fraud in the Eastern District of Texas.

U.S. Attorney Orwig said he remained on the alert for any form of hurricane fraud, "Real hurricane victims will suffer again when they are unable to receive assistance because the funds have been depleted by greedy individuals trying to make a quick-buck. Even as we are in the midst of a new hurricane season, we will continue to investigate and prosecute those who took advantage of last year's storms."

According to information contained in the first indictment, **MICHAEL ALLEN GILLMAN**, 44 of Denton, filed five false applications with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for disaster relief funds designated for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and received a United States Treasury check based on one of those false applications. Gillman has been indicted for mail fraud and filing false claims to collect FEMA disaster relief funds.

If convicted, Gillman faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine for the mail fraud charges and up to five years and a

\$250,000 fine for each of the false claims.

This case is being investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Shamoil T. Shipchandler.

In a separate case, **JAMES D. JOHNSON**, 28, and **KNISHAWA BOYKINS**, 22, both of Dallas, have been indicted on six counts of theft of government property, conspiracy to commit mail fraud, and mail fraud.

According to information contained in the indictment, Johnson and Boykins submitted disaster relief applications to FEMA claiming their residences in New Orleans, LA were damaged by Hurricane Katrina and they had personally suffered losses as a result of that storm when in fact, neither defendant was a resident of a hurricane impacted area and neither sustained damages. As a result of these fraudulent claims, the defendants received several checks for disaster relief totaling more than \$28,000.

If convicted, Johnson and Boykins each face up to ten years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for the charge of theft of government property. They also face up to five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine for the conspiracy charge. Johnson faces up to an additional twenty years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for the mail fraud violation.

This case is being investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Andrew Stover.

Both cases are part of an initiative by the Department of Justice Hurricane Fraud Task Force, established by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft and insurance and benefits fraud.

It is important to note that an indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of either guilt or innocence.

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