



Department of Justice

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ANOTHER CHARGED, ANOTHER SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, LA – Another Louisiana resident was sentenced and another charged in a bill of information in federal court on fraud charges related to hurricane disaster relief programs, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

JUANITA WADE, age 34, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged yesterday in a bill of information with making a false claim for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. If convicted, WADE faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

LYDIA JONES, age 23, of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, pled guilty on June 6, 2006, to an indictment charging her with making a false claim for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. She was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge John V. Parker today to three years of probation, 50 hours of community service, and \$2,000 in restitution. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, conducted the investigation of this matter.

Yesterday's filing brings the total number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds to seventy-nine.

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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