



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David R. Dugas
Middle District of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/LAM

CONTACT: DAVID R. DUGAS
(225) 389-0443
FAX: (225) 389-0561

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

BATON ROUGE, LA – Another Louisiana resident was indicted and two more were sentenced in federal court today on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today.

MICHAEL D. REED, age 56, of Loranger, Louisiana, was charged in an indictment by a federal grand jury with three counts of wire fraud in obtaining disaster unemployment benefits for alleged losses resulting from Hurricane Katrina. REED is charged with defrauding the Louisiana Department of Labor (LDOL) and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) by applying for benefits under the disaster unemployment assistance program from on or about November 29, 2005, to on or about May 10, 2006, while allegedly failing to notify LDOL of his continuous employment after the storm. These funds were intended for persons who had become unemployed as a result of the disaster. The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General. If convicted, REED faces a maximum sentence of twenty years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, per count.

QUINCY LANGLEY, age 29, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on July 5, 2006, to an indictment charging him with making a false claim for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits. He was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge James J. Brady to ten months imprisonment, a three year term of supervised release, and \$2,000 in restitution. The U.S. Secret Service; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General; the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation of this matter.

Today's indictment 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 eighty.

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.

###