

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

\*

**CRIMINAL NO. 15-57**

**v.**

\*

**SECTION “B”**

**RONALD BACKES**

\*

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**FACTUAL BASIS**

Should this matter have gone to trial, the government would have proven, through the introduction of competent testimony and admissible exhibits, the following facts, beyond a reasonable doubt, to support the allegations in the bill of information now pending against the defendant, **RONALD BACKES**.

On April 20, 2010, an explosion and fire occurred on the Deepwater Horizon, an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico where British Petroleum (BP) had been drilling a well. Thereafter, BP established the Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) to administer, mediate, and settle certain claims of individuals and business for losses incurred as a result of the Deepwater Horizon incident. The GCCF began receiving and processing such claims on August 23, 2010. The GCCF required any individual filing a claim to submit valid documentation as proof of loss or reduction in earnings due to the oil spill.

In August and September 2010 the defendant **RONALD BACKES** submitted fraudulent claims to the GCCF on behalf of himself and another individual for purported lost earnings as a result of the Deepwater Horizon incident. **BACKES** falsely represented that prior to the Deepwater Horizon incident he earned \$156,000 annually from a shrimping business and that the other individual earned \$36,000 annually as **BACKES’S** employee. **BACKES** submitted his

false claim on August 23, 2010 by means of an internet wire communication from the Eastern District of Louisiana to computer servers of the GCCF outside the State of Louisiana. To support these claims, **BACKES** created and submitted to the GCCF false receipts of shrimp sales. As a result of **BACKES'S** conduct, GCCF issued checks totaling \$192,000, all of which were deposited to **BACKES'S** personal bank account.

**APPROVED AND ACCEPTED:**

STEVEN LONDON  
Attorney for Defendant

Date

CHANDRA MENON  
Assistant United States Attorney

Date \_\_\_\_\_

RONALD BACKES  
Defendant