

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Criminal No. 14-
 :
 v. : 18 U.S.C. § 1040
 :
 SARA L. CENGIZ :
 :

INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

1. At all times relevant to this Information, defendant SARA L. CENGIZ was a resident of Brick Township, New Jersey.

2. At all times relevant to this Information, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) was a constituent agency of the United States Department of Homeland Security and a member of the executive branch of the United States Government.

Disasters and Fraud on FEMA Generally

3. When a natural disaster or federal emergency occurs in the United States, federal agencies, such as FEMA, provide relief and assistance to affected individuals and entities. FEMA has provided financial assistance by, among other things, helping affected individuals repair their property and by providing rental assistance grants so that affected individuals can obtain temporary housing.

4. Due to FEMA's vast size and the typically large number of victims resulting from a disaster, FEMA frequently has been targeted in disaster fraud schemes by individuals or groups seeking FEMA monetary assistance for benefits to which they were not entitled. These individuals accomplished their schemes by submitting fraudulent applications to FEMA for, among other things, repairs and rental assistance.

Hurricane Irene

5. In August 2011, Hurricane Irene made landfall in New Jersey. As a result of Hurricane Irene, various counties in New Jersey, including Ocean County, suffered severe storms which caused significant damage due to wind, rain, and flooding.

6. On or about August 31, 2011, a Presidential Disaster Declaration for the State of New Jersey (DR-4021 - Hurricane Irene) was made pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.* This enabled eligible individuals to seek financial assistance from FEMA when displaced by the storms.

7. From in or about September 2011 to in or about January 2012, in Ocean County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

SARA L. CENGIZ,

knowingly made materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations to FEMA, verbally and in writing, in a matter involving benefits authorized, transported, transmitted, transferred, disbursed, and paid in connection with a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5170.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1040(a)(2) and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.



PAUL J. FISHMAN
United States Attorney