



# UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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## **WOMAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR FEMA FRAUD**

*Received Nearly \$80,000 In Fraudulent Benefits After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita*

**Monroe, La.** - Christena Bradley, 32, of Metairie, La., was sentenced today to 30 months in federal prison and ordered to repay \$71,814.68 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for wire fraud after filing false claims for disaster assistance, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. Today's sentence was handed down by Chief U. S. District Judge Robert G. James.

Bradley pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud in June 2009. The charge stemmed from numerous fraudulent claims for emergency assistance, rental assistance, and personal property, beginning in September 2005 after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and continuing until October 2008. Bradley used false addresses and stolen identities to receive a total of \$79,505.06 in disaster assistance from FEMA. Federal authorities have already seized \$7,690.38 from an account maintained at First Convenience Bank in Carrollton, Texas.

United States Attorney Donald W. Washington stated: "Disaster assistance should go to the real hurricane victims and not to people who illegally enrich themselves by stealing from FEMA. Law enforcement will continue to investigate and prosecute abuse of the disaster assistance program."

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Cytheria D. Jernigan.

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