



Department of Justice

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**ATLANTA WOMAN SENTENCED TO 21 MONTHS
FOR STEALING MONEY FROM FEMA**

Gulfport, Miss. – Zhioukellia Brown, 30, of Atlanta, Georgia was sentenced in federal court today to serve 21 months in federal prison for Katrina fraud, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter announced. She was also ordered to repay \$10,650.90 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Brown pled guilty to fraudulently applying for and receiving disaster assistance funds from FEMA by falsely claiming she resided in a Bayou View apartment in Gulfport at the time of Hurricane Katrina. Brown admitted that she instead resided in Georgia at that time. In total she received \$10,650.90 in cash or corporate lodging benefits in the months following Katrina. In related cases, two other individuals, Evelyn Wilson and Gregory Towner, already pled guilty and were sentenced for filing false claims on the same apartment.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In September, 2005, former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the national 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 for the Criminal Division, Lanny A. Breuer, includes members from the FBI, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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