



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Dunn Lampton
Southern District of Mississippi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008
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CONTACT: SHEILA WILBANKS
PHONE: (601) 965-4480
FAX: (601) 965-4409

GULFPORT WOMAN SENTENCED FOR KATRINA FRAUD

Gulfport, Miss. – **Sarah J. Diab**, of Gulfport, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Sul Ozerden to serve 10 months in federal prison followed by 3 years of supervised release for Katrina Fraud, U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today. Diab was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$29,327.61 to FEMA and \$435.00 to the Department of Agriculture.

Diab pled guilty in February to Theft of Government Funds by filing for disaster benefits with FEMA on a former address in Waveland, Mississippi which she claimed as her primary residence.

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, Alice S. Fisher, includes members from the Department of Homeland Security, FBI, 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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