



Department of Justice

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LEAKSVILLE INMATE ARRAIGNED ON KATRINA FRAUD

Hattiesburg, Miss. – Kado Jackson, of Hattiesburg, appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael Parker in Federal Court yesterday for arraignment on fraud charges related to Hurricane Katrina, U.S. Attorney Donald R. Burkhalter announced. Jackson was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of stealing government money, filing a false claim, making false statements and wire fraud.

The indictment alleges that Jackson fraudulently applied for and received disaster assistance funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency by falsely representing his residency at the time of Hurricane Katrina. Specifically, Jackson, who was incarcerated on August 29, 2005, the day Hurricane Katrina hit, claimed he was displaced by the disaster from his Hattiesburg home. If he is found guilty of the charges, Jackson faces a maximum penalty of twenty years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000.00. He is scheduled for trial before U.S. District Judge Keith Starrett on February 15, 2010.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, with significant assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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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