



# Department of Justice

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Southern District of Mississippi

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## OCEAN SPRINGS WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR KATRINA FRAUD

GULFPORT, Miss - Beatrice E. Moses, of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, was sentenced in U.S. District Court today to serve 15 months in federal prison for fraud against the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Small Business Administration (SBA), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton announced. Moses was also ordered to make restitution to FEMA in the amount of \$24,779.60, to the Mississippi Emergency Management in the amount of \$50,929.46 (for a MEMA cottage), and \$1,810 to USDA for emergency food stamps. A forfeiture order of a money judgment in the sum of \$24,779.60 was also entered against Moses.

Moses pled guilty on October 28, 2008 to making false statements to the Mississippi Development Authority for a HUD disaster home grant, making false statements to USDA and SBA, and stealing government funds from FEMA. In the same case Leverne Moses, husband of Beatrice Moses, entered a plea of guilty to making a false statement to SBA and was sentenced to 5 years of probation.

In September, 2005, the United States Department of Justice, 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 Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Rita M. Glavin, 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. The Mississippi State Auditor Fraud Prevention and Protection Unit investigates allegations of fraud in the Homeowner Grant Program as part of the local task force.

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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