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**NEW BRITAIN WOMAN, HARTFORD LANDLORD, CHARGED  
WITH STEALING HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF BENEFITS**

Nora R. Dannehy, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in Hartford has returned a Superseding Indictment charging **CHRISTINE TATE**, also known as "Christine Tate Carter," 30, of Tremont Street, New Britain; **RUKAIYABANU A. SHAIKH**, also known as "Bonnie," 62, of Highmeadow Road, Rocky Hill; and the business SHAIKH managed, **URBAN DEVELOPERS, LLC**, with various offenses related to their alleged fraudulent receipt of Hurricane Katrina relief benefits.

According to the Superseding Indictment, TATE was a tenant in an apartment building at 105 Sherbrooke Avenue in Hartford that is owned and operated by URBAN DEVELOPERS, a Connecticut limited liability corporation. SHAIKH is a manager and agent for URBAN DEVELOPERS.

The Superseding Indictment alleges that, between September 2005 and February 2006, TATE knowingly stole \$3,472 that was provided through expedited assistance programs maintained by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Katrina victims. FEMA is a component of the United States Department of Homeland Security. The Superseding Indictment also alleges that TATE knowingly made materially false statements and representations in obtaining expedited assistance from the FEMA programs. Specifically, TATE is alleged to have represented that she was eligible for such benefits, when in reality she knew that she was ineligible for the benefits.

The Superseding Indictment further alleges that, between December 2005 and October 2006, SHAIKH and URBAN DEVELOPERS knowingly stole and converted United States Government funds totaling \$13,749 that were provided through rental assistance programs maintained by FEMA for Hurricane Katrina victims. The rental assistance payments were paid directly to URBAN DEVELOPERS on behalf of TATE. The Superseding Indictment also alleges that SHAIKH knowingly made materially false statements in an October 2006 document

provided to federal agents. The document purported to list monthly rental amounts received for TATE at 105 Sherbrooke Avenue for the period between January 2006 and October 2006. TATE received both FEMA and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development rental assistance from January 2006 through September 2006. However, the document did not disclose the full extent of the federal rental assistance received by URBAN DEVELOPERS for the benefit of TATE during that time period, including the FEMA rental assistance paid to URBAN DEVELOPERS on TATE's behalf.

The Superseding Indictment charges TATE and SHAIKH each with one count of theft of Government property related to Hurricane Katrina relief assistance, a charge that carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000. TATE also is charged with two counts of making false statements pertaining to eligibility for Hurricane Katrina benefits, and SHAIKH is charged with one count of making false statements pertaining to receipt of Hurricane Katrina rental assistance. Each of these charges carries a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a fine of up to \$250,000. URBAN DEVELOPERS, which is charged with one count of theft of Government property related to Hurricane Katrina relief assistance, faces a fine of up to \$500,000.

The Superseding Indictment was returned on July 14. The charges against TATE in the Superseding Indictment are the same as the charges alleged in an Indictment returned on April 8, 2009. The Superseding Indictment adds SHAIKH and URBAN DEVELOPERS as defendants.

Today, SHAIKH and URBAN DEVELOPERS appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Thomas P. Smith in Hartford and entered a plea of not guilty to the charges. SHAIKH was released on a \$10,000 non-surety bond. TATE also has been released on a \$10,000 non-surety bond since she was charged in April.

Acting U.S. Attorney Dannehy stressed that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which it is the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William A. Collier.

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