

*******Excellent Visuals – Signs reading*******
"Shame" and "Help Hurricane Victims"

MOVEON.ORG POLITICAL ACTION

ADVISORY FOR
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

Rally At White House Thursday at 1:00 pm

Katrina Evacuees to Tell President Bush His Administration Let Them Down

Request Meeting with President to Demand Accountability

Why Was Federal Funding Cut For Levee Maintenance?

Washington, DC -- Hurricane Katrina evacuees flew into the nation's capital to tell President Bush to stop blaming local officials for his mistakes and acknowledge that budget cuts and indifference by his administration led to the disaster in New Orleans and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

They intend to ask him why he diverted over 40% of federal funding between 2001-2005 away from New Orleans. Hundreds are expected to rally in front of the White House at 1 p.m. EDT on Thursday.

"The President of the United States and his appointees let us down," said Christine Mayfield, a New Orleans public school teacher and mother of three who was dislocated and now is staying in North Carolina.

The evacuees are also seeking a meeting with Rep. Henry Waxman, the ranking Democrat on the Government Oversight Committee.

According to Rep. Waxman, "the budget of the Corps of Engineers for construction projects in New Orleans district was cut by over 40% between 2001 and 2005, apparently to free up funds for the war in Iraq and homeland security projects. In 2004, for the first time in 37 years, the Corps halted all work on the New Orleans levee system."

New Orleans native Michelle Augillard, one of the evacuees, was working toward her Masters degree at the University of New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina hit. Now, she is staying with a friend in Houston, trying to pick up the pieces of her life, along with her family. Both Michelle and Christine will appear at the rally.

"It is inhumane to have treated citizens of the United States like we were treated," she said. "

Members of MoveOn.org Political Action are scheduled to hand-deliver thousands of petition signatures to the White House after the rally. The petition says, "President Bush should stop blaming the victims of Hurricane Katrina and get to work helping them."

Who: Katrina Evacuees and MoveOn members

What: Protest outside the White House in support of Hurricane Victims

When: 1 PM EDT, Thursday, September 8th

Where: Pennsylvania Avenue NW. In front of the White House.
(Metro: Red Line: Farragut North. Blue-Orange Line: Farragut West or McPherson Square)

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