



## Katrina Charities Stymied By FEMA Silence

*United Press International*

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency has provided Hurricane Katrina evacuee data to the media, but frustrated relief agencies are still waiting.

Many of the groups are awaiting updates to data that FEMA had given USA Today. On Sept. 29, one month after the storm hit the Gulf Coast, the newspaper published a map showing how tens of thousands of evacuees were scattered across 18,700 zip codes in all 50 states.

The non-profit National Low Income Housing Coalition is one of the groups hindered by the lack of data. Spokeswoman Sheila Crowley said the silence was scandalous, and suggested a congressional hearing into the information breakdown.

PICO National Network, a coalition of 1,000 churches, including 100 in New Orleans, also has been trying to collect information about evacuees' whereabouts to help pastors find parishioners and help them contact relatives and friends.

FEMA spokeswoman Nicol Andrews said she couldn't explain why at least three relief groups didn't get the data.

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