



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Cincinnati Field Office *Special Agent in Charge Kathy A. Enstrom*

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OWNER OF NETASK TAX SERVICE SENTENCED FOR TAX CRIMES

Columbus, Ohio – Neville Lyimo, 37, of Columbus, Ohio, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, one year of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$4,471 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). On May 21, 2013 a United States District Court jury convicted Lyimo of 10 counts of aiding and assisting in the filing of false federal income tax returns with the IRS.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office announced the sentence handed down yesterday by U.S. District Judge Gregory L. Frost.

According to court documents, from 2003-2007 Lyimo was the owner, operator and a tax return preparer at Netask Tax Services located at 5848 Emporium Square, Columbus, Ohio.

Lyimo willfully prepared and filed his clients' tax returns claiming false exemptions, deductions and credits for tax years 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Lyimo did not review or explain the false items to his clients after the preparation was complete. The clients relied upon Lyimo to accurately prepare their tax returns. The false items resulted in larger refunds. Lyimo benefited from the larger refunds by receiving increased word-of-mouth referrals, which generated increased business volume and preparation fees.

"Return preparer fraud is like a contagious disease, it affects not only the preparer, but the individuals who have filed false information with Internal Revenue Service," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "It is our hope that today's sentence sends the strong message that tampering with the integrity of our nation's tax system will result in jail time."

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney's Dan Brown and Jessica W. Knight and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

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