



PRESS RELEASE

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

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MAN INDICTED IN TAX REFUND SCAM

Scheme involved approximately \$1.6 million in false claims

CINCINNATI, OHIO -- A federal grand jury here has indicted Said Abuhelal, 33, of Cincinnati, charging him with scheming to file false claims for federal income tax refunds with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), as well as obstruction.

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 indictment returned yesterday.

The indictment charges Abuhelal with one count of conspiracy to file false claims for income tax refunds with the IRS, five counts of filing false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS and one count of obstruction.

According to the Indictment, between January 2008 and April 2010 Abuhelal and others allegedly conspired to defraud the IRS by filing false claims for income tax refunds. Allegedly, Abuhelal and others participated in a scheme to obtain payment of false claims for income tax refunds from the IRS by filing false federal income tax returns for at least the 2007 through 2009 tax years. The false claims for income tax refunds totaled approximately \$1,661,637.00.

Additionally, Abuhelal allegedly prepared and filed five fraudulent federal income tax returns with the IRS that claimed false income tax refunds.

Also, in approximately April 2010 Abuhelal allegedly attempted to alter and falsify certain documents and removed certain files relating to the 2007 income tax year from his office, which were the subject of a summons issued to the Abuhelal in connection with this income tax refund fraud investigation, with the intent to impede and obstruct the investigation and proper administration of the IRS.

"The object of this refund fraud scheme was to swindle the government and the taxpaying public," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "IRS Criminal Investigation agents will continue to be on the front lines to fight tax fraud."

This case is being prosecuted by Senior Litigator Anne L. Porter and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

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