



# PRESS RELEASE

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

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### **FIVE INDICTED IN CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD THE IRS**

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- A federal grand jury here has indicted five individuals in a conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) by willfully aiding and assisting in the preparation and 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 indictment returned yesterday.

Those charged in the indictment are:

Fatma Ali, 39, of, Columbus, Ohio, was charged with two counts of conspiracy to defraud the IRS and 48 counts of willfully aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of false federal income tax returns with the IRS.

Abdi Hared, 43, of, Columbus, Ohio, was charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the IRS and 40 counts of willfully aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of false federal income tax returns with the IRS.

Tolomyne Sargbah, 65, of Columbus, Ohio, was charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the IRS and 40 counts of willfully aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of false federal income tax returns with the IRS.

Mursal Dhudhi, 40, of Columbus, Ohio, was charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the IRS and 40 counts of willfully aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of false federal income tax returns with the IRS.

Abdiwali Muse, 39, of, Columbus, Ohio, was charged with one count of conspiracy to defraud the IRS and eight of willfully aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of false federal income tax returns with the IRS.

According to the indictment, Abdi Hared, Tolomyne Sargbah, and Mursal Dhudhi were co-owners of Better Home Care Services, Inc. ("BHCS"), Abdiwali Muse was the owner of Health Empowerment Partners, LLC ("HEP"), and Fatma Ali was employed as an income tax preparer for Speedia Tax Services.

Between January 2008 and October 2011 Ali, Hared, Sargbah, and Dhudhi allegedly conspired defraud the IRS by impeding and obstructing the IRS from computing and collecting the income taxes from "BHCS." Between January 2011 and March 2012 Ali and Muse allegedly conspired defraud the IRS by impeding, impairing, and obstructing the IRS from computing and collecting the income taxes from "HEP".

Ali allegedly created false Forms 1099 in the names of "other" taxpayers which claimed a portion of the income actually earned from "BHCS" by Hared, Sargbah, and Dhudhi, and from "HEP" by Muse. By doing so, Hared, Sargbah, Dhudhi, and Muse underreported their adjusted gross income on their income tax returns. Also, the amounts claimed on the false Forms 1099 were reported as deductible business expenses, thereby fraudulently decreasing their federal tax obligations.

Although the "other" taxpayers did not actually receive the income shown on the false Forms 1099, Ali prepared income tax returns for them that claimed this income as their own, which allowed them to receive income tax credits they were not eligible to receive.

Between April 2008 and April 2012, Ali allegedly prepared false Forms 1099 reflecting income received as employees of "BHCS" and "HEP" that were included with the filing of income tax returns for persons who were not employees of "BHCS" and "HEP."

Between June 2008 and September 2011, Hared, Sargbah, Dhudhi, and Muse allegedly filed income tax returns prepared by Speedia Tax Service and/or Ali that fraudulently deducted "BHCS" and "HEP" expenses shown on false Forms 1099 for persons who were not employees of "BHCS" or "HEP."

Conspiracy to defraud the IRS carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Willfully aiding and assisting in the preparation and filing of false federal income tax returns with the IRS carries a maximum penalty of 3 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

"With the ending of this year's filing season, it is important for people to have confidence that when they pay their taxes, their neighbors and co-workers are doing the same," 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."

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Brown and were investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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