



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
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PASSAIC COUNTY TAX PREPARER SENTENCED FOR PREPARING FRAUDULENT TAX RETURNS AND IDENTITY THEFT

Newark, N.J. –The owner of Perez Enterprises, a commercial tax preparation business located in Paterson, N.J., was sentenced today to 40 months in prison for filing false tax returns and aggravated identity theft.

U.S. District Judge Faith S. Hochberg also ordered John Perez, a resident of Paterson, to serve three years of supervised release and pay a \$25,000 fine. In addition, Judge Hochberg ordered Perez never to prepare tax returns for others again.

“As this year’s tax filing season is in full swing, those who might consider preparing false tax returns should be aware of the extremely negative consequences as evidenced today,” stated Jonathan D. Larsen, Acting Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. “Today’s sentencing of Mr. Perez again emphasizes that the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Attorney’s Office will continue our aggressive pursuit of those who would attempt to defraud America’s tax system.”

Previously, on October 2, 2013, Perez pleaded guilty to a two-count information that charged him with theft of government funds and aggravated identity theft.

As stated at his plea hearing and according to court documents:

Perez operated a commercial tax preparation business out of his residence called Perez Enterprises. Between March, 2008 and September, 2010, Perez engaged in a scheme whereby he utilized the personal identifying information of his tax preparation clients as

well as other individuals to file fraudulent tax returns. Perez prepared and filed these fraudulent federal tax returns on behalf of these individuals without their knowledge and consent. Perez listed false information on these returns such as wages and tax withholdings in order to obtain tax refunds to which neither the individuals nor he were entitled to receive. Perez kept the tax refunds and utilized the money for his own personal gain.

In total, Perez prepared and filed tax returns that generated approximately \$123,521 in fraudulent refunds.

The investigation was conducted by IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Jonathan D. Larsen and The U.S. Attorney's Office, under the direction of U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Shana Chen and Mala Harker.

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