



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
St. Paul Field Office
Kelly R. Jackson, Special Agent in Charge

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Contact: Special Agent Rick Myrland
IRS – Criminal Investigation
1242 Fourier Drive #200
Madison, WI 53717
608-827-1946
Richard.Myrland@ci.irs.gov
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Four Minneapolis People Plead Guilty to Tax Conspiracy

Money Laundering, Defrauding the United States and Lying to Federal Agents are Among the Charges

MINNEAPOLIS – The last of four defendants pleaded guilty to federal charges in a plot to scam the government out of more than \$2 Million in fraudulent tax refunds. On Monday Seth Mogollon-Flores plead guilty to Conspiracy to Defraud the United States for his role in a scheme that began in 2010. During the probe federal investigators found he was linked to Maria Teresita Alvarez-Mateos, who also pleaded guilty to conspiracy, owner of Express Income Tax in Minneapolis. Express Income Tax was found to have filed false returns with the IRS.

Also charged was Yuliana Alvarez-Mateos, who pleaded guilty to making false statements to federal agents conducting the investigation, and Yossimar Alarcon-Patino, who pleaded guilty for conspiracy and money laundering. Yuliana Alvarez-Mateos admitted she lied to agents when questioned about using fraudulent refund money to purchase a vehicle, and Alarcon-Patino admitted employing others to cash fraudulent refund checks in and around the Twin Cities then transferred a portion of the cash outside the United States.

Court records reveal that Mogollon-Flores, Maria and Yuliana Alvarez-Mateos, and Yossimar Alarcon-Patino worked together to gather the personal information of undocumented U.S. workers and Mexican citizens, then completed tax returns using false information to generate large refund checks, from which they profited.

With tax filing season underway, Kelly R. Jackson, Special Agent in Charge of the St. Paul IRS Criminal Investigation office, warns taxpayers to be vigilant of return preparers who complete returns simply to qualify you for a larger, potentially fraudulent refund. “The taxpayer is ultimately responsible for what is reported to the IRS, so make sure you know, understand and agree with what’s on your return.” said Jackson.

The four guilty pleas follow a lengthy investigation involving Special Agents from the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, FBI, and U.S. Postal Inspectors, and is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Office in Minneapolis. No sentencing date has been scheduled.

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