



NEWS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Los Angeles Field Office
Erick Martinez, Special Agent in Charge

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Prepared by: Special Agent Linda Lowery, Public Information
Officer
Email: linda.lowery@ci.irs.gov

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Former Inland Empire Tax Return Preparer Pleads Guilty to Filing False Returns in Fraudulent Refund Scheme

Scheme Involved Over 400 Fraudulent Tax Refunds Totaling Over \$800K

Los Angeles – The former operator of a tax preparation business in San Bernardino County pleaded guilty today to a fraudulent scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service through the filing of bogus returns claiming tax refunds.

Kismaea Rouzan pleaded guilty before United States District Judge Terry J. Hatter, Jr. to two counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns.

As described during the change of plea hearing this morning, in 2011 and 2012, Rouzan owned and operated a tax return preparation business named “Mobile Tax Preparers” in Fontana, California. As part of the fraudulent scheme, Rouzan obtained personal identification information, including names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth, and addresses of taxpayers from “runners,” who were also involved in the fraudulent tax preparation scheme. Rouzan used the personal identifying information to prepare fraudulent tax returns that were filed in the names of the taxpayers claiming fraudulent wages and qualified education expenses.

The tax refunds received from the IRS were deposited directly into Rouzan’s bank accounts in full or were split between her bank accounts and prepaid debit cards. The fraudulent refunds were divided between Rouzan, runners who provided the personal identifying information and taxpayers. Rouzan used the proceeds from the fraudulent tax preparation scheme to pay her living expenses.

In total, during the 2010 and 2011 tax years, Rouzan prepared or caused to be prepared over 400 fraudulent tax returns, resulting in a total loss amount of \$846,782.

Rouzan faces a statutory maximum sentence of 6 years in federal prison when sentenced by Judge Hatter on February 29, 2016. She also agreed to pay restitution in excess of \$800,000 to the IRS for her role in the fraudulent scheme.

The investigation of Rouzan's fraudulent tax business was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation, in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

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United States Attorney's Office contact:

Allen W. Chiu
Assistant United States Attorney
(213) 894-2435