



NEWS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Los Angeles Field Office
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Former Inland Empire Tax Return Preparer Sentenced to Federal Prison 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 was sentenced this afternoon by United States District Court Judge Terry J. Hatter, Jr. to a term of imprisonment of one year and one day for defrauding the Internal Revenue Service through the filing of bogus returns claiming tax refunds.

Kismaea Rouzan, who pleaded guilty late last year to two counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns, was further ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$312,600.

As described during the change of plea hearing held in November, 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, for 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.

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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