



PRESS RELEASE

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St. George businessman sentenced to 18 months prison for wire fraud and failing to file income tax returns

District of Utah – June 18, 2014 - Christopher C. Harris, 47, of St. George, UT, was sentenced on June 3, 2014 by U.S. District Court Judge Ted Stewart to 18 months in federal prison for wire fraud and willfully failing to file federal income tax returns. Harris was also ordered to pay \$705,000.00 in restitution. Harris is to self-surrender on or by August 4, 2014 to serve his sentence.

Harris was the owner and operator of a commodities distribution business under the name of Revolution Holdings, Inc. located in St. George, Utah. Through Revolution Holdings, Inc., Harris purportedly supplied commodities of all kinds all over the world by obtaining and arranging for shipping of the commodities. Harris conducted business by, among other things, entering into contracts with customers and having the customers wire money into his personal accounts.

Harris pleaded guilty to wire fraud and willfully failing to file federal income tax returns. According to the plea agreement documents, from about July 2008 to about July 2009, Harris defrauded DJD International Solutions, LLC and American Quality Importers, LLC who were trying to purchase large quantities of cement. In order to obtain money from them, Harris made intentionally false and fraudulent representations including telling these companies he had purchased and delivered large shipments of cement to prior customers when he had not. Harris told them that he owned a large quantity of cement when he did not, and he sent the companies fraudulent documents purporting to be from third parties indicating that he had fulfilled large-scale cement contracts in the past and had arranged shipping vessels to transport cement when he had not. Harris also pleaded guilty to willfully failing to file federal income tax returns for the income he received.

"This should be a wake-up call to those in the commodities business that fraud and failing to file income tax returns can result in stiff penalties" said IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent Virginia Keys. "IRS Criminal Investigation is committed to investigating crimes such as these to ensure those who commit such crimes will be held accountable."

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Utah with the assistance of IRS Criminal Investigation, United States Secret Service, and Homeland Security Investigations.

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