



Department of Justice

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott
Eastern District of California

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CONTACT: Lauren Horwood
PHONE: 916-554-2706
edcapress@usdoj.gov

HURON MAN CHARGED IN FRAUDULENT TAX REFUND SCHEME

FRESNO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that on EVODIO MORENO, 47, of Huron, Calif., was arrested and arraigned today on charges of filing false tax returns, using the identification of another person without lawful authority, and mail fraud. The tax returns resulted in the issuance of fraudulently claimed tax refund checks. He was indicted on Nov. 6, 2008 and today entered a plea of not guilty to all of the charges.

This case was the product of an extensive investigation by the IRS Criminal Investigation Division.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Sheila K. Oberto and Mark McKeon, who are prosecuting the case, MORENO would obtain names, social security numbers and dates of birth for deceased individuals. He would use the information to prepare Individual Federal Income Tax returns to submit to the IRS. The income tax returns contained false information to claim the Earned Income Credit, thereby making the alleged taxpayer eligible for a tax refund. MORENO would use post office boxes and residence addresses to which he had access or which he controlled to receive tax refund checks. He would then cash the refund checks at check cashing locations.

Each mail fraud count carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The making and presenting of false claim charges carry a maximum penalty of five years, and a \$250,000 fine, and the use of a means of identification charges carry a maximum penalty of 15 years and a \$250,000 fine. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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