

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2007

Middlesex County Man Charged
with Tax Evasion, Filing False Tax Returns

(More)

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NEWARK – A North Brunswick man was arrested today on an Indictment charging him with failing to file tax returns and filing false tax returns, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

The five-count Indictment, returned April 12, 2007, under seal, charges Mazen Mokhtar, 38, with two counts of failing to file business tax returns and three counts of filing false personal tax returns.

According to the Indictment, Mokhtar was the president and sole shareholder of Mindcraft, Inc., a computer consulting and technology company, for which he was required to file business tax returns.

The Indictment alleges that for the tax years 2003 and 2004, Mokhtar failed to file Mindcraft's business tax returns. The Indictment additionally alleges that for the tax years 2000, 2002 and 2003, Mokhtar filed fraudulent personal tax returns in that he failed to state the entire amount of income he received from Mindcraft.

Mokhtar was arrested at his home early this morning by Special Agents of the FBI and IRS. Mokhtar is scheduled to make an initial appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge Esther Salas at 2 p.m., when bail will be set.

The fraudulent personal tax return violations each carry a maximum sentence of three years in prison and a \$100,000 fine. The charges of failing to file S Corporation tax returns each carry a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

An Indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI in Newark, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Pedro Ruiz, for their work in the investigation leading to the charges against Mokhtar. Also assisting in the case were Special Agents of the IRS in Connecticut and New York and Special Agents of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Connecticut.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Kogan.

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