

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
District of Oregon**



PRESS ROOM

January 10, 2008

**INDICTMENT CHARGING FOUR IN AN INCOME TAX
CONSPIRACY CASE RESULTS IN ARRESTS IN FOUR STATES**

***Abusive Tax Programs Allegedly Sold Across the United
States***

Portland, Ore. - Joseph Oquendo Saladino, Richard Allen Fuselier, Marcel Roy Bendshadler and Michael Sean Mungovan (A.K.A. "Cajun Mike") were arrested by special agents of the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation on January 10, 2008 in Portland, Oregon; Boise, Idaho; Sterling Virginia; and Lafayette, Louisiana. A fifth defendant has not yet been arrested. All five were charged with a single count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States in a sealed indictment returned by a Federal Grand Jury in Portland, Oregon on December 18, 2007. The indictment was unsealed on January 9, 2008.

The indictment alleges that the five individuals conspired to defraud the United States by interfering with the Internal Revenue Service's ability to accurately assess and calculate income taxes. Programs designed to assist people in evading the assessment or collection of federal income taxes were allegedly marketed and sold by the five defendants to people across the United States. For example, the indictment alleges that more than 1000 tax returns were filed by or on behalf of individuals utilizing the tax evasion program marketed by the defendants. The indictment states that the claimed tax loss from false income tax returns filed as a result of these abusive tax programs exceeded \$7.5 million.

According to the indictment, beginning around January 2000, Saladino allegedly founded Freedom & Privacy Committee (FPC) while residing in Portland Oregon. FPC allegedly sold several abusive tax programs from about May 2001 through at least January 2005, which had no legitimate purpose and were designed solely to assist people evade the assessment or collection of federal income taxes. Mungovan was the National Sales Director for FPC from about May 2002 through at least November 2005. Bendshadler was an FPC Independent Representative and sold FPC's products to individuals from about May 2001 through at least November 2005. As also alleged in the indictment, around February 2001, Fuselier founded Compensation Consultants, Inc. (CC) and prepared, and caused to be prepared, fraudulent federal income tax returns for CC's clients. CC was formed to assist people in evading the assessment or collection of federal income taxes. The fifth defendant, who has not yet been arrested,

allegedly prepared, and caused to be prepared, hundreds of fraudulent federal income tax returns for CC's clients, from about February 2002 through at least May 2004.

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crime charged. The defendants are presumed entirely innocent until and unless the Government meets its burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Allan M. Garten and Craig J. Gabriel, along with Department of Justice, Tax Division Trial Attorney Lori A. Hendrickson.

Questions should be directed to Assistant United States Attorney Allan M. Garten at (503) 727-1043.