



NEWS RELEASE

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METROEAST TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSISTING OTHERS IN THE PREPARATION OF FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS

On March 21, 2008, **LUVINA KIDD** of East St. Louis, Illinois, pled guilty to sixteen counts of Aiding and Assisting in the Preparation of False Federal Income Tax Returns. Each offense carries a statutory maximum penalty of up to three years imprisonment, one year supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000 for a total statutory maximum penalty of up to forty-eight years imprisonment. Sentencing is scheduled for June 19, 2008.

LUVINA KIDD held herself out as a professional tax preparer in the Alorton/East St. Louis area and operated "Excellence Income Tax Service." **LUVINA KIDD** solicited low-income taxpayers who had little knowledge of the federal tax laws by promising large tax refunds from the Internal Revenue Service. **LUVINA KIDD** admitted as part of the plea that she aided and assisted in the preparation of false returns that created large refunds by creating and falsifying her clients' dependents, income sources, income amounts, tax credits, deductions and expenses and sometimes fabricated material items of her clients' tax returns

without their knowledge. The successful prosecution is the result of an investigation conducted by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Norman Smith, Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois.

If you suspect or know of an individual or company that is not complying with the tax laws, you may report this activity by contacting the local Internal Revenue Service/Criminal Investigation Office or by mailing information to: Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888 Please include the following information, if available:

Name and address of the person you are reporting

The taxpayer identification number (social security number for an individual or employer identification number for a business)

A brief description of the alleged violation, including how you became aware of or obtained the information

The years involved

The estimated dollar amount of any unreported income

Your name, address and daytime telephone number

Although you are not required to identify yourself, it is helpful to do so. Your identity can be kept confidential. You may also be entitled to a reward.