



## United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut Press Release

June 5, 2008

### FORMER MILFORD RESIDENT ADMITS FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Nora R. Dannehy, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that SONIA D. CRUZ, 46, of Northampton, Massachusetts, formerly of Milford, Connecticut, pleaded guilty yesterday, June 4, before United States District Judge Christopher F. Droney in Hartford to one count of filing false claims with the United States Government.

According to documents filed with the Court, from April 2002 through January 2005, CRUZ filed with the Internal Revenue Service a series of fraudulent income tax returns, in her name and in the name of others, seeking refunds to which she was not entitled. Specifically, CRUZ submitted false federal personal income tax returns for the tax years 2001 through 2004, falsely claiming dependents and other related credits on those returns when she knew that she had no children or dependents during those tax years. As a result, CRUZ underreported her taxable income by approximately \$50,850, which resulted in the payment of refund checks by the IRS to which she was not entitled. A correct calculation reflects an additional tax due and owing the IRS of approximately \$19,373.

In addition, from 2002 through 2005, CRUZ prepared and filed approximately 53 federal personal income tax returns for others or using the names of others, intentionally falsifying dependents and overstating federal withholding on the returns, seeking refunds that she knew were not really owed. The false claims for refunds relating to the misrepresentations on these returns totaled approximately \$207,000, of which the IRS paid approximately \$83,000 in refunds, \$64,175 of which was deposited into various bank accounts controlled by CRUZ and spent on various personal expenses. The remaining checks, totaling \$18,825, were sent to an address in Puerto Rico associated with CRUZ, but were not cashed or deposited. The IRS uncovered the false claims prior to paying out the remainder of the \$207,000.

Judge Droney has scheduled sentencing for August 22, 2008, at which time CRUZ faces a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher W. Schmeisser.

**CONTACT:**     **U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**  
Tom Carson  
(203) 821-3722  
[thomas.carson@usdoj.gov](mailto:thomas.carson@usdoj.gov)

[Home](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [Legal Policies and Disclaimers](#) • [USAO Homepage](#) • [Department of Justice](#) •  
[USA.gov](#) • [Project Safe Neighborhoods](#) • [PSN Grants](#) • [www.regulations.gov](#)