



# United States Department of Justice

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**THE OAKLAND “TAX MAN” PLEADS GUILTY AND THE “DOCTOR” WHO COULD FIX ALL  
IRS PROBLEMS PLEADS GUILTY TO PREPARING FALSE TAX RETURNS AND IS  
SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IN PRISON**

SAN FRANCISCO - United States Attorney Joseph P. Russoniello and Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Scott O'Briant, announced that in two separate cases Bay Area return preparers Robert Thomas Doyle and Fatai Onevai pleaded guilty to preparing false tax returns on behalf of their clients. In addition, Mr. Onevai was sentenced and will serve 18 months in prison.

Known as the “Tax Man,” Robert Thomas Doyle, age 57 and a resident of Alameda County, was charged on January 17, 2008 with 34 counts of filing false claims against the United States by preparing U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns, Forms 1040, claiming false refunds. The false refunds were for the tax years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 and totaled \$87,891.

In pleading guilty to one count, Mr. Doyle admitted that he was known in the Oakland community as the “Tax Man.” During 2003, 2004 and 2005 he carried out a scheme to obtain fraudulent tax refunds from the IRS. Pursuant to that scheme, he recruited people off the streets near his Oakland office to have their federal income tax returns prepared. Mr. Doyle told them that he could obtain tax refunds for them. He then prepared false income tax returns, presented those false returns to the IRS and obtained fraudulent refunds from which he kept a large fee and gave the rest to the client. He also prepared other fraudulent income tax returns and obtained refunds in the names of some clients without their knowledge.

Mr. Doyle is scheduled to be sentenced on October 8, 2008. The maximum statutory penalty for each count of aiding and assisting in the preparation of a false tax return in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2) is three years imprisonment and a fine of \$100,000. The maximum statutory penalty for each count of false claims in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 287 is five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. However, any sentence following conviction would be imposed by the court after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence, 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

In a matter unrelated to Mr. Doyle's, Fatai Onevai pleaded guilty on March 19, 2008 to one count of preparing a false tax return. He was sentenced June 25, 2008 to 18 months in prison. According to the plea agreement, beginning in 2000, Mr. Onevai, of Utah, operated a sole proprietor business called O Fix Enterprise out of his home in Pittsburg, California. Through O Fix Enterprise, he offered tax preparation, roofing and construction services. He was the only person who prepared tax returns at O Fix Enterprises. Mr. Onevai was charged with 37 counts of preparing false and fraudulent U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns, Forms 1040, for taxpayers. Mr. Onevai also made false claims related to filing status and exemptions. The total amount of false items claimed on the 37 tax returns is \$1,349,039.

Mr. Onevai is from Tonga and most of his clients were referred to him through the Tongan community where he was known as the Doctor who could fix all IRS problems.

Thomas Moore and Cynthia Stier are the Assistant U.S. Attorneys who are prosecuting these cases with the assistance of Kathy Tat. Both these prosecutions are the result of investigations by lead IRS Special Agent Russell Lovell of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

**Further Information:**

Case #:CR-08-00021 CW (Doyle); CR-08-0022-TJH (Onevai)

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/can](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/can).

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at [www.cand.uscourts.gov](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov).

All press inquiries to the U.S. Attorney's Office should be directed to Joshua Eaton at (415) 436-6958 or by email at [Josh.Eaton@usdoj.gov](mailto:Josh.Eaton@usdoj.gov).

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