



Department of Justice

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COLLEGE PARK MAN SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Defendant Operated "Icon Tax Service" in Norcross

ATLANTA, GA - ONESSIMUS M. GOVEREH, 30, of College Park, Georgia, and Zimbabwe, Africa, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Julie E. Carnes to serve over 8 years in federal prison on charges of filing false income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service.

IRS-Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Reginael McDaniel said, "While most return preparers provide excellent service to their clients, a few unscrupulous tax preparers file false and fraudulent returns to defraud the government, the tax paying public and their own clients. The defendant in this investigation wreaked havoc on the integrity of our tax system in a very short period of time. Taxpayers should be careful in selecting the tax professional who will prepare their returns."

GOVEREH was sentenced to 8 years, 4 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of approximately \$62,000. GOVEREH was convicted of 14 counts of filing false claims for payment from the United States on January 16, 2008, after a 7-day trial.

According to Acting United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: GOVEREH operated "Icon Tax Service" in Norcross for six weeks in January and February 2007. During that time, the IRS received 107 personal federal income tax returns from GOVEREH's business, and several of his former customers identified him as their preparer. The returns claimed enormous refunds, usually based on fabricated income, expense, and excise tax figures. GOVEREH then obtained half or more of his clients' refunds by charging preparation and other fees. The IRS later rejected all 107 returns because they all contained false and fraudulent claims for excise tax expenses. IRS agents arrested GOVEREH and searched his office on February 15, 2007. Many of GOVEREH's clients later learned that he had taken out refund anticipation loans from banks in their names, and after the IRS rejected their returns, they found themselves liable for the entire amounts of those loans.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney William G. Traynor prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, Acting United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.