



Department of Justice

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NEW JERSEY MAN FACES TAX FRAUD CHARGES

Five-Man Scheme Allegedly Netted \$1.6 Million In Fraudulent Tax Refunds

ATLANTA, GA - PETER WILLIAMS, 41, of Passaic, New Jersey, was arraigned today before United States Magistrate Judge Janet F. King on federal charges of conspiring to file income tax returns with false claims for refunds. In addition to WILLIAMS, the indictment charges four other men with conspiring to use personal information obtained from homeless and jailed people to collect phony tax refunds.

“Mr. Williams and the other defendants allegedly obtained more than \$1.6 million by filing fraudulent income tax returns that claimed enormous refunds,” said United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates. “Schemes like this steal the money that other honest citizens have paid as taxes.”

“Individuals thinking about participating in fraudulent tax refund schemes such as this should stop in their tracks and simply look at the possible consequences of taking the next step,” said Reginael D. McDaniel, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigations. “Those consequences can include going to prison, being branded a convicted felon for the rest of their lives and having to pay back their ill-gotten gains.”

According to United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates, the charges, and other information presented in court: WILLIAMS and four other men allegedly obtained personal identifying information from people in homeless shelters, jails, and other locations, and used that information to file income tax returns with falsely inflated claims for refunds. The conspirators allegedly filed 123 returns between December 2005 and March 2007, and received more than \$1.66 million in refunds.

Charged with WILLIAMS are KELCEY PIERRE MILLER, a/k/a “Bashir,” a/k/a “Shake,” 36, of Atlanta; RAHMAN HILL, 40, of Mableton; JABBAR IVAN PENDER a/k/a James Earl Pender, 40, of Newark, New Jersey; and KEITH LAMONE RICHARD, 39, of Decatur. The five men are charged with conspiring to file false claims for payment against the United States. This charge carries a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a fine of \$250,000.

MILLER is also charged with 11 counts of wire fraud, based upon his alleged use of electronically transferred funds in the operation of the scheme, and one count of aggravated identity theft, based upon his alleged possession of a fraudulent driver’s license that carried his picture, but an identity theft victim’s information. Wire fraud is punishable by a maximum of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 per count. Aggravated identity theft is punishable by a minimum mandatory prison sentence of two years. In determining the defendants’ sentences, the Court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding, but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

The five defendants were indicted on July 27, 2010. MILLER, HILL and RICHARD were arraigned on August 6, 2010. PENDER is in federal custody on unrelated drug charges in New Jersey, and will be arraigned in the future.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment only contains charges. The defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government’s burden to prove the defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations.

Assistant United States Attorney William G. Traynor is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, through John Horn, First Assistant United States Attorney, at (404) 581-6335. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.justice.gov/usao/gan.