

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Criminal No. 11-
 :
 v. : 18 U.S.C. § 286
 :
 JULIO ALEXANDER LARA TRINIDAD :

INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

Background

1. At all times relevant to this Information, natural born citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are, upon birth, automatically granted United States citizenship.

2. At all times relevant to this Information, citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are, upon application, issued Social Security numbers by the Social Security Administration.

3. At all times relevant to this Information, citizens of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico who reside in Puerto Rico typically do not file tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") because such filing is not required as long as all of the Puerto Rican residents' income is derived from sources in Puerto Rico.

The Fraudulent Scheme

4. From at least in or around January 1, 2011, through in or around June 1, 2011, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

JULIO ALEXANDER LARA TRINIDAD

did knowingly and intentionally enter into an agreement, combination, and conspiracy with others to defraud the United States and a department or agency thereof, namely the United States Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, by obtaining and aiding to obtain the payment and allowance of false, fictitious, and fraudulent claims, namely individual income tax refund checks.

Object of the Conspiracy

5. The object of the conspiracy was for defendant JULIO ALEXANDER LARA TRINIDAD and his co-conspirators to obtain and ultimately cash income tax refund checks that were generated through the filing of materially false and fraudulent individual income tax returns with the IRS and State tax agencies, and to use the resulting illicit cash proceeds for their personal benefit.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

The manner and means by which the members of the conspiracy sought to accomplish the purpose and object of the conspiracy included, among other things, the following:

6. It was part of the conspiracy that beginning at least as early as in or around January 1, 2011, members of the conspiracy obtained the identity information, including the names and social security numbers, of certain individuals. Among other things, members of the conspiracy obtained the social security numbers of Puerto Rican citizens.

7. It was further part of the conspiracy that members of the conspiracy filed with the IRS and State tax agencies false and fraudulent U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns, using the identity information of others, including Puerto Rican citizens, and seeking state and federal tax refunds (collectively, the "Tax Returns") to which the members of the conspiracy were not entitled. The objective in doing so was to generate false and fraudulent income tax refund checks issued by the United States Department of the Treasury and State tax agencies (the "Tax Refund Checks").

8. It was further part of the conspiracy that, while members of the conspiracy used the personal information of certain individuals, including Puerto Rican citizens, to generate the Tax Refund Checks, they had the Tax Refund Checks issued and sent to different addresses that were in and around the District of New Jersey. Members of the conspiracy did this so that the Tax Refund Checks would be directed to addresses where they could retrieve them.

9. It was further part of the conspiracy that the filing

of the Tax Returns with the IRS or the State tax agencies by members of the conspiracy would cause the IRS or the State tax agencies to issue Tax Refund Checks.

10. It was further part of the conspiracy that members of the conspiracy would cash the Tax Refund Checks in a variety of ways, including at banks and check-cashing establishments.

11. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the unlawful object thereof, defendant JULIO ALEXANDER LARA TRINIDAD and his co-conspirators, committed and caused to be committed the following acts in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere:

a. On or about May 31, 2011, JULIO ALEXANDER LARA TRINIDAD and others traveled from New York to various locations in Middlesex County, New Jersey, for the purpose of retrieving Tax Refund Checks that other co-conspirators had caused the IRS to issue and mail to specific addresses in Middlesex County, New Jersey.

b. In furtherance of the conspiracy, JULIO ALEXANDER LARA TRINIDAD and others did retrieve Tax Refund Checks that other co-conspirators had caused the IRS to issue and mail to specific addresses in Middlesex County, New Jersey.

c. In furtherance of the conspiracy, JULIO ALEXANDER LARA TRINIDAD agreed to deliver the Tax Refund Checks to co-conspirators in New York for purposes of cashing said checks.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code,
Section 286.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paul J. Fishman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

PAUL J. FISHMAN
United States Attorney