



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

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NEWS RELEASE

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, announced today that a federal grand jury in Syracuse returned an indictment charging Ronald Williams, an inmate at Greene Correctional Facility, Coxsackie, New York, in the New York State Department of Corrections, with filing false claims against the United States as part of a prison-based tax refund scheme. The Grand Jury charged Williams, age 47, in an eight-count indictment with knowingly making and presenting to the Internal Revenue Service, an agency of the United States Department of the Treasury, eight claims against the United States for payment of a refund of taxes which he then and there knew to be false, fictitious, and fraudulent, by preparing and mailing and causing to be mailed to the Internal Revenue Service, United States Individual Income Tax Forms. William's fraudulent claims to the IRS sought, in total, a refund of in excess of \$650 million dollars.

Each violation of 18 U.S.C. § 287 carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, three years supervised release, and a mandatory assessment of \$100 for each count of conviction.

The case was investigated by Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division, Syracuse Office, under the direction of Charles R. Pine, with assistance from the New York State Department of Correctional Services, Office of the Inspector General.

Further information regarding this case can be obtained by contacting Assistant United States Attorney John G. Duncan at 315-448-0687.

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