



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 11, 2008**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
YUSILL SCRIBNER,  
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL,  
JANICE OH  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600**

**ATF  
JOSEPH GREEN  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(718) 650-4000**

**NYS TAXATION AND FINANCE  
THOMAS BERGIN  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(518) 457-4242**

**SELLING COUNTERFEIT STATE CIGARETTE TAX STAMPS  
RESULTS IN TWO YEAR PRISON SENTENCE**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, WILLIAM G. McMAHON, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives ("ATF"), and ROBERT L. MEGNA, the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, announced that JOSE MIGUEL GIL SANTOS was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to two years in prison for selling counterfeit cigarette tax stamps. In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge BARBARA S. JONES ordered GIL SANTOS to serve a term of three years of supervised release.

On June 24, 2008, GIL SANTOS pleaded guilty to four counts of selling counterfeit New Jersey cigarette tax stamps. According to documents filed in Manhattan federal court, were the stamps which the defendant sold on four occasions in 2007 legitimate, they would represent the payment of more than \$645,000 worth of New Jersey taxes.

Mr. DASSIN praised the investigative work of the ATF and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, which

worked together to investigate this case as part of a long-term investigation into the manufacture and sale of counterfeit tax stamps in the New York City area.

Assistant United States Attorney ADAM S. HICKEY is in charge of the prosecution.

08-323

###