



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**DEBRA RYAN, FORMER COMPANION OF CONVICTED SWINDLER SAMUEL ISRAEL,  
IS SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS OF PROBATION FOR HELPING HIM AVOID JAIL**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that DEBRA RYAN, 46, was sentenced today to 3 years of probation, including a 4 months of home confinement, for aiding and abetting SAMUEL ISRAEL, III, in his effort to avoid surrendering to commence serving his own 20-year sentence. RYAN's sentence was imposed by United States District Judge KENNETH M. KARAS in White Plains federal court.

As stated by RYAN during her plea and by the Government at various proceedings in the case:

RYAN knew that ISRAEL was required to begin serving a 20-year sentence for fraud on June 9, 2008. On the night before ISRAEL was supposed to go to prison, RYAN, in her car, followed ISRAEL, who was driving an RV, to a highway rest area. ISRAEL left the RV at the rest area and RYAN drove him back to the house they shared. Thereafter, on numerous occasions through June 19, 2008, during interviews with law enforcement officers who were investigating ISRAEL's whereabouts, RYAN lied to and misled the officers. For example, on June 10, 2008, RYAN informed the New York State Police that she had located a suicide note written by ISRAEL, and she then provided the note to them.

On March 16, 2009, ISRAEL pleaded guilty to failure to surrender to serve his sentence and he is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge KARAS on that charge on July 15, 2009.

Assistant United States Attorneys SARAH R. KRISOFF and MARGERY B. FEINZIG are in charge of the criminal prosecutions.