



***United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York***

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 7, 2008**

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

**BRONX TAX PREPARER SENTENCED TO 40 MONTHS IN PRISON**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOSEPH OWUSU was sentenced today to 40 months in prison for preparing false income tax returns. United States District Judge KEVIN T. DUFFY imposed the sentence in Manhattan federal court.

OWUSU pleaded guilty on July 2, 2008, to one count of making false claims, two counts of filing false claims for refunds, and eight counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns. The charges against OWUSU arose principally out of his preparation of false income tax returns for clients of a tax preparation business he operated in the Bronx, New York. According to the Information filed in this case and statements made in court:

From 2005 through 2007, OWUSU included false items on tax returns he prepared for clients of his tax preparation business, including seeking tax exemption for non-existent dependents, non-reimbursed business expenses, and false claims to Head of Household status. OWUSU'S inclusion of false deductions on income tax returns caused the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") losses of at least \$900,000. OWUSU also admitted that he filed false claims for refunds in connection with two of his own individual income tax returns, and that as a result he received refunds he was not entitled to.

In addition to the prison term, Judge DUFFY sentenced OWUSU to three years of supervised release, and ordered him to pay restitution to the IRS in the amount of \$991,051.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the IRS, Criminal Investigation Division in this case.

This case was prosecuted by the Office's Major Crimes Unit. Assistant United States Attorney DANYA PERRY, SEETHA RAMACHANDRAN and JOSEPH FACCIPONTI are in charge of the prosecution.

08-253

###