



# United States Department of Justice

United States Attorney Joseph P. Russoniello  
Northern District of California

11th Floor, Federal Building  
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36055  
San Francisco, California 94102  
(415) 436-7200  
FAX: (415) 436-7234

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JANUARY 28, 2009  
[WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/CAN](http://WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/CAN)

CONTACT: Jack Gillund  
(415) 436-6599  
[Jack.Gillund@usdoj.gov](mailto:Jack.Gillund@usdoj.gov)

## **WATSONVILLE COUPLE CHARGED WITH FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS**

### *Under Reported Cost Of Goods Sold By More Than \$1.3 Million*

SAN FRANCISCO – A federal grand jury indicted ABDOL HOSSEIN NOVIN and ZOHREH AHGHARI of Watsonville, Calif., with four counts of filing false tax returns and two counts of assisting in the preparation of false tax returns, announced United States Attorney Joseph P. Russoniello and IRS-Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Scott O'Briant.

According to the indictment, from 2002 through 2004, Mr. Novin and Ms. Ahghari under reported the cost of goods sold by their business, Mountain Food and Vending, by \$1,361,955 .

The maximum statutory penalty for each count of filing a false tax return and aiding or assisting in the preparation of a false tax return in violation of Title 26 U.S.C. § 7206(1) and Title 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2) is 3 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. However, any sentence following conviction would be imposed by the court after consideration of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence, 18 U.S.C. § 3553.

An indictment contains only allegations against an individual and, as with all defendants, Novin and Ahghari must be presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Thomas M. Newman is the Assistant U.S. Attorney who is prosecuting the case with the assistance of Kathy Tat. The prosecution is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

### **Further Information:**

Case #: CR09-52-RMW

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/can](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/can).

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at [www.cand.uscourts.gov](http://www.cand.uscourts.gov).

All press inquiries to the U.S. Attorney's Office should be directed to Jack Gillund at (415) 436-6599 or by email at [Jack.Gillund@usdoj.gov](mailto:Jack.Gillund@usdoj.gov).

This site does not contain all press releases or court filings and is not an official record of proceedings. Please contact the Clerk of Courts for the United States District Court for official copies of documents and public information.

###