



## U.S. Department of Justice

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### NEWS RELEASE

March 10, 2009

Acting United States Attorney Andrew T. Baxter and the Department of Justice's Tax Division announced on March 10, 2009, that JUAN SANCHEZ, 53 was sentenced today in Federal Court in Syracuse. Chief District Judge Norman A. Mordue imposed a sentence of 57 months incarceration, restitution to the Internal Revenue Service of \$15,532, and 3 years of supervised release on JUAN SANCHEZ, who is already incarcerated in the New York State prisons.

Mr. SANCHEZ, a prisoner in Wende Correctional Facility in Alden NY, pled guilty to conspiring to defraud the United States by submitting false claims for tax refunds to the Internal Revenue Service. The defendant admitted that between 2003 and 2005, while incarcerated by the State of New York, he used the names and social security numbers of other individuals to prepare and to file twenty-one income tax returns which fraudulently claimed entitlement to tax refunds. The false tax returns claimed that the purported taxpayers were employed, earned wages, and had withheld from their income more in taxes than they actually owed, thus entitling them to a refund. In truth, the purported taxpayers did not work for the named employers, did not earn the purported wages, did not pay the claimed withholding taxes, and were not entitled to the tax refunds as claimed on the tax returns filed with the IRS. Mr. SANCHEZ further admitted that he had recruited non-incarcerated visitors and acquaintances to mail the false tax returns he prepared to the IRS using return addresses, accessible to his non-incarcerated co-conspirators, in order to retrieve tax refund checks sent by the IRS.

Special Agents with the IRS's Criminal Investigation Division investigated the case. The United States Attorney and the IRS thank the Inspector General's Office of the New York State Department of Correctional Services for its cooperation and assistance during the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Olmsted with the U.S. Attorney's Office, and Trial Attorney John Kane with the Department of Justice's Tax Division.