

Department of Justice

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MAN SENTENCED IN FALSE IRS REFUND CASE

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Michael Israel, 37, of Rochester, NY, was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine by U.S. District Judge Charles J. Siragusa after pleading guilty to making false claims and false impersonation of a United States employee or officer.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who handled the case, stated that in 2009, the defendant filed three false tax returns; one return in his own name and two returns in the names of other individuals. As a result, Israel claimed a total of \$322,599 in tax refunds from the Internal Revenue Service which were deposited in two bank accounts opened by the defendant. After one of the tax refunds was frozen by the bank, the defendant called the bank posing as a United States Secret Service agent, seeking release of the refund.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service, under the direction Special Agent-in-Charge Charles Pine and Special Agents of the United States Secret Service under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Tracy Gast.

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