



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2008

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

BRONX TAX PREPARER SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS IN PRISON

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ROBERT M. QUINONES was sentenced today to 30 months in prison for preparing false income tax returns. United States District Judge DENISE L. COTE imposed the sentence in Manhattan federal court.

QUINONES pleaded guilty on December 21, 2007, to twenty-five counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns and two counts of filing false claims for refund. The charges against QUINONES 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 Indictment filed in this case and statements made in court:

From 2001 through 2005, QUINONES included false items on tax returns he prepared for the clients of his tax preparation business, including non-existent medical expenses, unreimbursed business expenses, and gifts to charity. QUINONES' inclusion of false deductions on over 200 income tax returns caused the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") losses of approximately \$450,000. QUINONES also admitted that he caused the filing of false claims for refunds in connection with two of his own individual income tax returns. These false claims caused QUINONES to receive refunds to which he was not entitled, in the aggregate amount of approximately \$20,000.

In sentencing QUINONES, Judge COTE stated that a prison sentence was appropriate due to the, "long-term, large-scale, substantial fraud." In addition to the prison term, Judge COTE sentenced QUINONES to three years of supervised release, and ordered him to pay restitution to the IRS in the amount of \$27,107.

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. Special Assistant United States Attorney MICHAEL BEN'ARY is in charge of the prosecution.

08-101

###