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FORMER IRS EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH TAX CRIMES

FRESNO, CA - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Sally Zamora, 35, of Reedley, CA, was indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury on 17 counts of aiding, assisting, counseling, and procuring the filing of false tax returns; one count of making and subscribing a false income tax return; and five counts of illegally accessing an IRS computer.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Stanley A. Boone, who is prosecuting this case, Zamora was employed by the IRS in Fresno between approximately 1990 to about October 17, 2002, in the areas of document perfection, files, CPS 36 (processing forms 1040X), bilingual customer service, and response to customer inquiries. The indictment charges that Zamora allegedly prepared 17 false tax returns for others between January 1997 and March 29, 2000, the resulting loss from which exceeded \$40,000. All of these returns allegedly contained false claims for an Earned Income Tax Credit which is meant as a subsidy for low income taxpayers. The indictment also contains a charge that Zamora's personal federal income tax return filed for 1997, was similarly false.

Five additional counts of the indictment charge that Zamora, while an IRS employee, allegedly intentionally accessed an IRS computer without authorization, and thereby illegally obtained information from IRS files.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each offense of Title 26, United States Code, Sections 7206(1) and (2) is 3 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The maximum penalty under federal law for the offense of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(2)(B) is 1 year and/or \$100,000 fine.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, and Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

A copy of this news release may be found on the U.S. Attorney Office's website at:
http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/text_version/text_pressindex.htm.

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