

**U.S. Department of Justice**

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Eastern District of Virginia*

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Alusaine Bangurah, 42, of Columbus, Ohio, was sentenced today by the Honorable T.S. Ellis, III, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, for filing a false and fictitious claim with the United States Department of Treasury, and using a social security number that was obtained on the basis of false information.

Judge Ellis sentenced Bangurah to 16 months imprisonment, and also ordered him to pay restitution of \$29,149.00, which comprises the proceeds of the false claims. As a condition of his supervised release, he is to cooperate with the INS in his deportation proceedings.

On December 4, 2002, Bangurah pleaded guilty to one count of filing a false claim with the Department of Treasury, and one count of using a social security number that was obtained on the basis of false information.

The defendant prepared and filed 19 false and fraudulent income tax returns where he claimed tax refunds. The returns falsely claimed that Bangurah and other individuals were employed, had taxes withheld from their wages or earnings, and were entitled to refunds. Five of the income tax returns were filed under Bangurah's name, or a variation of his name, using social security numbers that were obtained on the basis of false information.

Bangurah obtained two social security numbers by filing false applications with the Social Security Administration. In both of the applications, Bangurah falsely represented that he had not received a social security number prior to filing the application.

The case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division and prosecuted for the United States by Assistant United States Attorney Dana Boente.