



U.S. Department of Justice
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District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WICHITA, KANSAS WOMAN SENTENCED FOR FAILURE TO FILE AN INCOME TAX RETURN AND FILING FALSE INCOME TAX RETURNS

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Huong-Thuy Pham**, 48, Wichita, Kansas, was sentenced on Monday, December 8, 2003, by U.S. District Judge Monti L. Belot **to forty-six months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by one year of supervised release.**

Pham entered a guilty plea on May 20, 2003, to one count of failure to file a federal income tax return and three counts of preparing false federal income tax returns.

Melgren stated that Pham admitted a her plea that she was a tax return preparer who primarily prepared tax returns for the Vietnamese community in Wichita, Kansas. Pham admitted that her business was known as Home Town Returns. Pham further admitted that for the year 1996 she did not file her own federal income tax return even though she earned approximately \$172,433.75 in 1996. Pham further admitted that she prepared false federal income tax returns, by claiming false credits, filing status, or amount of income for her clients, in 1997 and 1998 so they would obtain tax refunds and that she took a portion of the refund for her services.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation in this investigation.

“Individuals who prepare tax returns for others have a responsibility to file accurate tax returns for their clients,” said Al Patton, Special Agent in Charge of the St. Louis Field Office of IRS Criminal Investigation. “Preparing false income tax returns is a serious crime, and the IRS will aggressively investigate those who intentionally cause the preparation and filing of false tax returns.”

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