



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of Maryland  
Northern Division*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio  
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc  
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse  
101 West Lombard Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800  
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462  
410-209-4885  
FAX 410-962-3091  
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA  
410-209-4885**

**LAUREL WOMAN FOUND GUILTY OF TAX CHARGES**

**GREENBELT, Maryland** – Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Olubukola Awosanya, a.k.a., Bukky Oladejo, age 39, formerly of Laurel, Maryland was convicted on late Friday afternoon, August 1, 2003 by a federal jury on two counts of filing false claims to obtain income tax refunds and one count of conspiracy to file false claims to obtain income tax refunds.

According to evidence presented by the government during the trial, for tax years 1995 through 1999 Awosanya and her husband Jide Awosanya each filed two federal income tax returns claiming refunds – under two different names and using two different social security numbers. For example, in tax years 1995 through 1999 Awosanya filed a tax return in the name of Olubukola Awosanya with social security number XXX-XX-XXXX and another tax return in the name of Bukky Oladejo with social security number XXX-XX-XXXX. Each of these tax returns claimed as dependents either nonexistent children or other people's children. By claiming these children as dependents, Awosanya filed under the lower tax bracket for head of household and claimed the earned income tax credit. Awosanya never paid any taxes for those tax years and along with her husband, received refunds in amounts ranging from \$1,793 to \$2,318. The total refund amount received was \$40,772.

A search warrant was executed at her home located at Highlander Court, Laurel, Maryland in November 1998. Among the items seized and introduced into evidence was: a state of Maryland driver's license in the name of Bukky Oladejo; a state of Maryland non-driver's identification card in the name of Olubukola Awosanya; two Republic of Nigeria passports in the name of Bukky Oladejo and Olubukola Oladejo; two Republic of Nigeria birth certificates in the name of Bukky Oladejo and Olubukola Oladejo with different dates of birth; and social security cards in the name of Olubukola Awosanya and Bukky Oladejo.

Olubukola Awosanya faces a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000 for each count on which she was convicted. Sentencing is scheduled before the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr. on October 23, 2003 at 9:30 a.m. Her husband, Jide Awosanya, previously pled guilty and was sentenced to 8 months incarceration and a \$5,000 fine.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Bryan E. Foreman.