



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LIQUOR STORE OWNER SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURN

PHOENIX – Jamal Sobhi Lashin, 49, of Scottsdale, Ariz., was sentenced here on Tuesday to 12 months in prison by United States District Judge Susan R. Bolton , having pleaded guilty in December to one count of Filing a False Income Tax Return.

On May 25, 2005 Lashin was indicted by a federal grand jury in Phoenix for two counts of filing false tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The returns did not accurately state Lashin's total income and his tax due and owing for the tax years 2001 and 2002. In his guilty plea to one count on December 22, 2005, Lashin admitted that in 2002 he was the co-owner of liquor stores with Zuheir Salti. Lashin indicated the liquor stores were profitable and generated income, but that he did not report all his income from the liquor stores when he made and signed his federal tax return for the year 2002. Lashin admitted that he understated his income and that he falsified his statement on his tax return that he was owed a refund.

Lashin will serve his sentence concurrently with a three month sentence he received for loan fraud, having pleaded guilty in July to an information charging him with making false statements in connection with a loan application in October 2002.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by special agents of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Internal Revenue Service. The prosecution was handled by Michael T. Morrissey, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-490-PHX-SRB
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