



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2007

For Information Contact Public Affairs
WYN HORNBUCKLE
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

ILLEGAL ALIEN SENTENCED IN TAX FRAUD SCHEME

PHOENIX – Salvador Ramos Maciel, 33, a Mexican national who was illegally present in the United States and formerly resided in Casa Grande, Ariz., was sentenced on February 26 in federal district court by Judge Roslyn O. Silver to 24 months in prison to be followed by 36 months supervised release and ordered to pay restitution of \$63,296. Maciel previously pleaded guilty in August to a charge of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States with respect to claims.

Maciel was indicted in May 2005 on one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States with respect to claims along with other specific counts of making false, fictitious and fraudulent claims against the United States. The indictment alleged Maciel, along with Anna C. Andrade and Jose Jesus Maciel Barajas submitted by mail 327 Individual Federal Income Tax Returns using 95 names for the years 1997 through 2001. The indictment alleged that all the tax returns contained false and fictitious information. The tax returns used IRS Form W-2s to claim false amounts of wages and income tax withholding thereby making the alleged taxpayer eligible for a tax refund. The W-2s were created for non-existent employers or for persons who never were in the employment of the listed employer. It was alleged that in the course of the scheme those fraudulent returns made false claims for \$384,498 in refunds. The government as a result of the scheme paid out \$ 63,296.00 in tax refund checks before the discovery of the scheme.

Judge Silver noted as reasons for her sentence that under the United States Sentence Guidelines, the offense was accomplished using sophisticated means, involved a large sum of money and that the defendant was an illegal alien. The judge rejected Maciel's request for leniency due to the impact his incarceration was having on his family in Mexico, noting that the sentence was a consequence of the defendant's voluntary actions.

The investigation in this case was conducted by special agents of Criminal Investigation at the Internal Revenue Service. The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR- 05-387-PHX-ROS
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-057(Maciel)

###