



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Motel Owner Sentenced for Filing a False Tax Return

Bismarck – United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley today announced that **Bharat I. Patel** pleaded guilty and was sentenced on April 5, 2004, for a felony charge of filing a false tax return with the Internal Revenue Service.

Patel, 43, Dickinson, North Dakota, was charged by the United States Attorney's Office with willfully making and subscribing a 1997 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, which was signed under penalty of perjury.

Patel has been in the hotel business for 20 years as an owner and a manager. **Patel** owns two Super 8 Motels located in Glendive, Montana, and Dickinson, North Dakota. In a plea agreement, **Patel** admitted that he signed his 1997 Individual Income Tax Return under penalty of perjury, stating that his taxable income was \$9,971.00, although he knew that his taxable income actually exceeded that amount. **Patel** had personally prepared summary sheets showing income and expenses for his Super 8 Motels which overstated business expenses by classifying personal expenditures as business expenses. **Patel** then provided the false information to his tax-return preparer.

United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland sentenced **Patel** to two years' probation, a \$5,000 fine, restitution to be determined by an IRS audit, and a \$100 special assessment

The case is a result of an investigation by the IRS – Criminal Investigation Division.

Assistant United States Attorney Cameron Hayden prosecuted the case.

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