



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Western District of Tennessee*

*800 Federal Building
167 North Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103*

*Telephone 901.544.4231
Fax 901.544.4230
TTY 901.544.3054*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: February 8, 2002

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
CONTACT: Leigh Anne Jordon
(901) 544-4231

Local Man Indicted in Refund Tax Scheme

Memphis, TN - Terrell L. Harris, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, announced today that Freddie L. Peters was recently indicted by a federal grand jury charging him with a total of 22 counts. Peters was charged with 8 counts of filing a false claim against the government and 14 counts of unauthorized disclosure of a social security number.

The indictment pertains to a scheme from February 4, 1997 until February 27, 1997, that Peters was involved in where false tax returns were prepared and sent to the Internal Revenue Service claiming refunds that the individuals were not entitled to receive.

Relating to this return, Peters knowingly disclosed two social security numbers assigned to other persons, in an attempt to obtain an inflated income tax refund. According to the indictment Peters caused false 1996 tax returns to be prepared in the names of several individuals that claimed fraudulent refunds in the amounts of \$4,670.00, \$4,235.00, \$2,237.00, \$2,678.00, \$3,392.00, and \$2,588.00. He also faces multiple counts of disclosing social security numbers of others pertaining to the filing of these false returns in order to inflate the refund amount.

Additionally, Peters was charged with causing a 1997 fraudulent tax return to be prepared and filed around January 27, 1998, with the Internal Revenue Service in the name of a separate individual claiming a refund of \$715.00. Peters was also charged with disclosing a social security number relating to the preparation of this return.

This investigation was conducted by agents with IRS-Criminal Investigation and Social Security Administration-Office of Inspector General. Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Nettles Harris is handling the case for the government.

X X X X