



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska  
**Joe W. Stecher**

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February 25, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division, announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

On February 24, 2009, Siyad W. Ali, a citizen of Somalia, was convicted by a United States District Court jury of preparing false individual income tax returns. The jury returned ten verdicts of guilty relating to Ali's preparation of tax returns for the 2003 and 2004 tax years.

Evidence introduced at trial proved that Ali opened Cedar Tax Services, a tax preparation business located at 4832 Dodge. He prepared returns for Sudanese immigrants. The returns were fraudulent in that Ali would list foster children as dependents, knowing that the taxpayer did not actually have a foster child. The returns would also fraudulently claim head of household status, earned income credits, and, in some instances, fuel tax credits. The false credits resulted in fraudulent refunds of approximately \$67,000.

Although none of Ali's clients were charged with a criminal offense, their false returns were audited and, as a result, they were assessed additional taxes and, in some instances, penalties and interest. The Honorable Laurie A. Smith Camp set sentencing for June 8, 2009. Ali was taken into custody pending sentencing.

**Name of Defendant:** Siyad W. Ali

**AKA:**

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Aiding and Assisting in the Preparation and Presentation of False and Fraudulent Individual Income Tax Returns Containing False Deductions; Maximum penalties: three years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000 fine, or both imprisonment and fine, three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Omaha, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** Michigan

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:**

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** On and before April 15, 2004 and continuing to April 15, 2005.

**Federal Arrest Date:** August 13, 2008

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:** December 11, 2007

**Initial Appearance Date:** August 27, 2008

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** Trial held February 17-24, 2009

**Sentencing Date:** June 8, 2009

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** June 8, 2009

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** The Honorable F. A. Gossett

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** Released on bond during pendency of case

**In Continuous Custody Since:** Remanded to custody of U.S. Marshal on February 24, 2009, pending sentencing

**Assigned District Court Judge:** The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** MPN