

Main Office
400 North Tampa Street, Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6358 (Fax)



Post Office Box 600
200 West Forsyth Street, Room 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/232-2682
904/232-2620 (Fax)

2110 First Street, Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
941/461-2200
941/461-2219 (Fax)

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida

80 North Hughey Avenue, Room 201
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

Reply to: **Orlando**

December 18, 2001

IRS REVENUE OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL CONDUCT

Orlando, Florida -- Today, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Karla Spaulding, HUMBERTO "BERT" GONZALEZ, age 50, of Casselberry, Florida, pled guilty to three charges relating to his duties as an Internal Revenue Service Revenue Officer.

Count One charges the defendant with offenses by employees of the United States, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7214(a)(9). Count Two charges the defendant with Fraud in Relation to Computers, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(2)(B). Count Three charges the defendant with Custodians Failing to Deposit Monies, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 649. GONZALEZ faces a maximum of seven years in prison and a \$450,000 fine.

HUMBERTO GONZALEZ, aka / Bert Guzman, was a senior level revenue officer in the Maitland, Florida. GONZALEZ was assigned a collection case and developed a personal relationship with a woman who owned a business and owed the government taxes. During the relationship Gonzales used his position to improperly close her account as "currently not collectible". This resulted in an estimated loss to the government of \$32,000.

Between on or about November 4, 1997, and on or about February 3, 1999, GONZALEZ improperly accessed the Internal Revenue Service's Integrated Data Retrieval System on sixty-six occasions to access the accounts of twenty taxpayers and/or their

related businesses. He exceeded his authority to access these accounts as the accounts had not been assigned to him or the accounts had been closed.

There are also other instances in which he received favors from taxpayers after he closed their accounts. For example, he received free work on his garage door and free or reduced auto repair for his car and his girlfriend's car, from taxpayers.

This case was investigated by special agents of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney I. Randall Gold.

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