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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ELLCOTT CITY MAN INDICTED FOR TAX PERJURY**

**Baltimore, Maryland** - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that on May 18, 2004 a federal grand jury indicted Syrakes Shah, age 35, of Ellicott City, Maryland, for crimes allegedly committed from about 2000 to 2002 in connection with fraudulent tax returns he prepared in an effort to defraud the Internal Revenue Service.

The 3 count indictment charges Shah with preparing and filing with the Internal Revenue Service false tax returns for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001 in which he reported taxable income in the amounts of \$724, \$3,166 and \$11,672, respectively, whereas Shah knew that he had substantial additional taxable income which he did not report.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

Shah entered his initial appearance today and faces a maximum sentence of 3 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 for each count.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Division, the Department of Treasury, and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Barbara S. Sale.