



# Department of Justice

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## **JURY CONVICTS RETURN PREPARER OF FILING FRAUDULENT RETURNS IN ORDER TO GET INFLATED REFUNDS**

CINCINNATI – A U.S. District Court jury here today convicted Thierno M. Diallo, 38, of Cincinnati on seven counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent U.S. individual income tax returns.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Jose M. Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation (IRS), announced the verdict returned today following a trial that began July 26, 2010 before Senior U.S. District Judge Sandra S. Beckwith.

The jury found that, between February 2007 and March 2008, Diallo filed seven false tax returns on behalf of customers of his tax return preparation business, Madina Consulting Services. By filing these false returns, Diallo's customers received large tax refunds from the IRS to which they were not entitled.

The refunds were sometimes thousands of dollars more than the refunds the customers were entitled to receive. The actual amount of loss will be determined prior to sentencing.

Witnesses testified that Diallo, a U.S. citizen originally from the west African nation of Guinea, used his knowledge of west African culture and language to recruit customers from other west African nations who live in the Cincinnati area.

Each count is punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to three years. Judge Beckwith will set a date for sentencing.

Stewart commended the IRS agents who investigated the case along with Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah D. Grimes and Department of Justice Tax Division Trial Attorney Melissa S. Siskind, who prosecuted the case.

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