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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# **FORMER MARANA INMATE INDICTED FOR FILING FALSE INCOME TAX RETURNS TO THE IRS TOTALING OVER \$600,000**

**TUCSON, ARIZONA** -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on December 17, 2003, a federal grand jury at Tucson, Arizona, returned a five count indictment against DANIEL G. JOHNSON, 26, a former inmate at the Marana Community Correctional Treatment Facility, for presenting five false income tax returns to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which fraudulently sought total refunds of \$600,474.00 for JOHNSON and two other inmates at the Marana facility.

The indictment charges JOHNSON with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 287: presenting a false claim to an agency of the United States. A conviction for Presentation of False Claims carries a maximum penalty of five years, a \$250,000.00 fine or both.

The indictment alleges that on or about November 2000, JOHNSON willingly and knowingly presented to the IRS two allegedly fraudulent 1999 U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns, Forms 1040A. Both returns are alleged to have false wages and withholdings, one with a false claim of refund in the

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amount of \$2,179.00 and the other of \$2,129.00. JOHNSON allegedly knew these claims were false, fictitious, or fraudulent. The indictment also alleges that on or about April 2001, JOHNSON filed three 2000 U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns. On two of the returns, forms 1040, JOHNSON allegedly included claims of large wages, along with a false W-2, gambling winnings, with false forms W-2G and large tax withholdings. These returns were filed in the names of JOHNSON and Stennitt W. Young, and indicated they were entitled to refunds in the amounts of \$207,686.00 and \$378,988.00 respectively, whereas JOHNSON allegedly knew these claims were also false, fictitious, or fraudulent. The third 2000 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040A, was filed in the name of James S. Wedde, and claimed wages, along with a false W-2, large withholdings and a refund of \$9,492.00, whereas JOHNSON again allegedly knew these claims were also false, fictitious, or fraudulent. Both James S. Wedde and Stennitt W. Young were residents of Marana Community Correctional Treatment Facility at the time of the events alleged in the indictment.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by special agents of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Internal Revenue Service.

The prosecution was handled by Daniel Roetzel, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-2505-TUC  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-218

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