

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Florida

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 9, 2021

South Florida Man Indicted for Tax Fraud

Miami, Florida – A South Florida man appeared today before a federal magistrate judge in Miami to face an indictment charging him with conspiring to defraud the Internal Revenue Service.

According to the indictment, Erick Calderon 40, of Westlake, Florida, owned a construction company, SUTS Contractors, Inc. and was employed at two other construction companies, Global Drywall Services, LLC. and IWES Contractors, Inc. Between February 2015 and September 2015, Calderon and others paid these companies' construction workers in cash through a shell company, El Valle, says the indictment. El Valle fraudulently posed as a subcontractor of SUTS, Global Drywall, and IWES, which allowed those companies to write checks to El Valle for services purportedly performed. According to the indictment, the checks were then cashed at various check cashing stores in Miami-Dade County and the cash was returned to Calderon, who in turn, paid the companies' workers in cash. It is alleged that the scheme minimized the payment of federal employment taxes by SUTS, Global Drywall, and IWES and caused them to underreport wages performed on construction jobs by these construction companies to the IRS.

If convicted, Calderon faces up to five years of imprisonment.

Juan Antonio Gonzalez, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Tyler R. Hatcher, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, Miami Field Office, and Rafiq Ahmad, Special Agent in Charge of the United States Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General, made the announcement.

This case is being investigated by IRS-CI in Miami and DOL-OIG. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Lois Foster-Steers.

An indictment is only an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls.

Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at www.flsd.uscourts.gov or at <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>, under case number 21-cr-20183.

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Topic(s):

Tax

Component(s):

USAO - Florida, Southern

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