



United States Department of Justice

Offices of the United States Attorneys

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
DISTRICT *of* KANSAS

[U.S. Attorneys](#) » [District of Kansas](#) » [News](#)

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

District of Kansas

SHARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Olathe Woman Sentenced In Identity Theft Scheme

KANSAS CITY, KAN. - An Olathe woman was sentenced Tuesday for a scheme to collect income tax refunds by creating companies that existed only on paper, U.S. Attorney Tom Beall said. In addition, a co-defendant in the case pleaded guilty Tuesday.

Raquel Odegbaro, 44, Olathe, Kan., was sentenced Tuesday to 75 months in federal prison and ordered to pay more than \$894,000 in restitution. She had pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the government, one count of aggravated identity theft and one count of mail fraud.

Co-defendant **Abdirizak Aden**, 33, Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty Tuesday to one count of conspiracy to defraud the government and one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud.

In their pleas, Odegbaro and Aden said they operated Cokeza Styles, an online business that sold hair products. They admitted creating a series of fictitious companies and filing tax returns in the names of so-called employees by providing false information about wages earned, amounts withheld and refunds due. The false tax returns directed the Internal Revenue Service to deposit refunds electronically to reloadable credit cards controlled by the conspirators. The individuals whose names appeared on the refunds never actually worked for the fictitious companies.

In addition, the conspirators used stolen Social Security numbers to apply for unemployment benefits from the Kansas Department of Labor. They created more than nine fictitious companies and registered them with the labor department. They filed false claims in the names of employees who purportedly were terminated without fault.

REPORT COVID-19 CRIME

Contact the National Center for
Disaster Fraud Hotline:
866-720-5721 or
[Justice.gov/DisasterComplaintForm](https://www.justice.gov/DisasterComplaintForm)



Victim Notification
COVID-19 Update



JUSTICE 101

VWA
VICTIM
WITNESS
ASSISTANCE

Making sure that victims
of federal crimes are
treated with compassion,
fairness and respect.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Aden is set for sentencing Oct. 2. The parties have agreed to recommend a sentence of 18 months and restitution of approximately \$541,000.

Co-defendants include **Alexander Limihagati**, 35, Overland Park, Kan., who is set for sentencing Aug. 14, and **Zia Mkubi Kajanja**, 42, Overland Park, Kan., who is awaiting trial.

Beall commended the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation; the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, Labor and Racketeering and Fraud; the Kansas Department of Children and Families; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Inspector General; the U.S. Department of Education – Office of Inspector General; the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Office of Inspector General; the Kansas Department of Labor; and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jabari Wamble for their work on the case.

In all cases, defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The indictments merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.

Topic(s):
Identity Theft
Tax

Component(s):
USAO - Kansas

Updated July 11, 2017



United States Commission on Civil Rights logo
Civil Rights Initiatives.
Toll Free Number
1-855-321-5549
[LEARN MORE](#)

project safe childhood logo
Project Safe Childhood
[LEARN MORE](#)

- HOME
- ABOUT
 - About the District
- NEWS
 - Upcoming Events
- MEET THE U.S. ATTORNEY
- DIVISIONS
 - Civil Division
 - Criminal Division
 - Administrative Division
- PROGRAMS
 - Elder Justice Task Force
 - Civil Rights
 - LECC
 - ATAC
 - Victim Witness Assistance
 - Project Safe Childhood
 - Project Safe Neighborhoods
- CONTACT US

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Accessibility Justice.gov
FOIA USA.gov
Privacy Policy
Legal Policies & Disclaimers

