



News Release

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North Metro men charged with tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office recently charged Mushtak Sadoun AlSayab and Hussam Masoud with two tax-related felonies.

Mr. AlSayab and Mr. Masoud are each charged with two counts of possession of untaxed tobacco products. The charges stem from a joint investigation between the Minnesota Department of Revenue and the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The complaints state that on two separate occasions, August 21, 2014 and September 17, 2014, Mr. AlSayab and Mr. Masoud possessed more than \$2,500 worth of untaxed tobacco products. According to the complaints, neither man is a licensed distributor of tobacco products. The complaints state that the two men traveled to Chicago to buy tobacco products (where the tax is substantially less than Minnesota), and then brought those tobacco products into Minnesota to resell them. The total amount of untaxed tobacco products in their possession, according to the complaints, was \$5,220.

Each tax-related felony charge carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both. Defendants are presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty.

This is an example of the department’s ongoing efforts to uniformly enforce the state’s cigarette and tobacco laws.

For more information on the tax laws related to tobacco products in Minnesota, [visit our website](#).

Although most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the Minnesota Department of Revenue takes enforcement action against noncompliant taxpayers to ensure that tax laws are administered fairly.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects that a person or business is violating Minnesota tax laws. Local callers may dial 651-297-5195 or call toll-free by dialing 1-800-657-3500. Tips can also be submitted to the department via email at

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tax.fraud@state.mn.us. Tipsters may choose to remain anonymous. In 2014, 87 percent of the department's criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

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