

Nigeria - [419 Coalition](#) 2016 News on Nigerian Scam / 419 Operations

20 DEC 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission:

EFCC Arraign Suspected Fraudster for Contract Scam

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission today December 20, 2016 arraigned one Jamilu Yunusa before Justice Yahaya Galadanci of the Kano State High Court on a seven count charge of Conspiracy and Obtaining by False Pretense.

The accused person alongside two others, Inuwa Abdu and Habibu Inuwa who are still at large allegedly connived and defrauded the complainants to the tune of N1,520,000 (One Million, Five Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira) by claiming that he had a contract with Dantata and Sawoe for the supply of pipes to the company.

He convinced his victims by promising to share the contract profit with them. However, investigation by the EFCC revealed that the accused person never had a contract with Dantata and Sawoe.

One of the charges read "that Jamilu Yunusa, Inuwa Abdu (at large) and Habibu Inuwa (at large) sometime in 2015 in Kano within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court conspired among yourselves to do an illegal act to wit: obtaining by false pretense the sum of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) from Nuhu Abubakar through Skye Bank account belonging to Inuwa Abdu with account number 3042263847 which was done pursuant to the said agreement and thereby committed an offense contrary to section (8) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act".

After listening to the charge, the accused person pleaded not guilty.

Prosecution counsel Douglas Ijah Gift asked the court for a trial date in view of the plea of the accused person.

Counsel for the defendant Amina Umar Garba applied orally that the accused person be admitted to bail.

The matter has been adjourned till January 5, 2017 for hearing of bail application. The accused person was remanded in prison custody.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efcnigeria.org/efcc/news/2248-efcc-arraign-suspected-fraudster-for-contract-scam>

14 DEC 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission:

EFCC Arraigns Man for Allegedly Duping an Irish Businesswoman of Pounds 53,000

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday December 13, 2016 arraigned Tonwerigha Oyintonbra Tombrown alias Michael Freeman and his company, Yoshinaka Corporation, before Justice A. O. Faji of the Federal High Court, sitting in Asaba, Delta State on a 34-count charge bordering on obtaining by false presence.

Tombrown is alleged to have duped an Irish businesswoman, Izabela Glogowska of over Pounds 53,000 (fifty three thousand pounds) through internet scam.

According to Glogowska, the petitioner, Tombrown posed as a prominent online trader, Michael Freeman, to hoodwink her to part with her money.

Count one of the charge reads:

"That you, Tonwerigha Oyintonbra Tonbrown alias Michael Freeman, Yoshinaka Corporation, on or about the 8th day of May, 2015, at Warri, Delta State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, did represent yourself as one Michael Freeman a famous online trader and obtain the sum of Five thousand, Eight Hundred Euro's (Pounds 5800) from Izabela Glogowska under the false pretence that you were going to pay the said sum into Izabela Glogowska's Perfect Money account, a pretence you knew to be false, and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the said Act".

Another count reads:

"That you, Tonwerigha Oyintonbra Tombrown alias Michael Freeman, Yoshinaka Corporation, on or about the 11th day of May, 2015, at Asaba, Delta State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, did represent yourself as one Michael Freeman a famous online trader and obtain the sum of Four thousand, Three Hundred Euro's (Pounds 4300) from Izabela Glogowska under the false pretence that you were going to pay the said sum into Izabela Glogowska's Perfect Money account, a pretence you knew to be false, and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the said Act".

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge when it was read to him.

In view of his plea, the prosecuting counsel, S. Hussaini asked the court to fix a date for the commencement of trial and that the accused person be remanded in prison custody.

Counsel to the defendant, I. B. Azago made an oral application for bail which was refused by the court. He was asked to make a formal application for bail.

Justice Faji adjourned the case to January 23 and 24 2017 and ordered the defendant to be remanded in prison custody pending the determination of his bail.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2242-efcc-arraigns-man-for-allegedly-duping-an-irish-businesswoman-of-53-000>

14 DEC 2016

EFCC Arraigns Impostor for \$17,863 Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 arraigned one Elvis Yemaye before Justice Olubunmi Banjoko of the Federal Capital Territory High Court sitting in Apo, Abuja on a 2-count charge bordering on impersonation, forgery and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of \$17, 863 (seventeen thousand, eight hundred and sixty three dollars).

The complainant, Albert John Kuba, an American citizen resident in Southern Moravia Town, Czech Republic, alleged that Yemaye fraudulently defrauded him of several thousands of United States of American dollars while threatening to release the recorded romance video of him to the public as well as issues that bordered on remittance of inheritance.

According to the complainant, Yemaye started his blackmail when the victim decided to back out from an earlier business of making him (Kuba) a beneficiary of his inheritance, a business later discovered to be phony.

It was also alleged that the suspect claimed to be one Tommy Rex (Jnr.) the picture of whom he used to lure his victims to sending money to him.

Investigation by the EFCC on the matter revealed that, the suspect falsely

presented himself to the victim as Chief Barrister Elvis Yemaye. He also paraded himself as an official of both the EFCC and CBN, using fictitious email addresses and several phone numbers to further lure his victim.

Count one of the charge reads:

"That you, Elvis Yemaye (Alias; Chief Barrister Elvis Yemaye) between June, 2014 and June, 2015 at Abuja within the Abuja Judicial Division of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtain an aggregate sum of \$17,863 (seventeen thousand, eight hundred and sixty three USD) from one John Albert Kuba, an American resident in Czech Republic under the false pretence that the money represents payment for the processing of your inheritance claim while acting in the name: Tommy Rex and which pretence you knew was false and committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Related Offences Act, Cap A6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004".

Particulars of count two read:

"That you, Elvis Yemaye (Alias; Chief Barrister Elvis Yemaye) between June, 2014 and June, 2015 at Abuja within the Abuja Judicial Division of this Honourable Court did personate a public officer to wit: pretended to be an operative with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and in such assumed character made a representation to one John Albert Kuba, an American resident in Czech Republic that you were investigating a case relating to your inheritance and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 132 of the Penal Code".

The accused person pleaded not guilty to the two counts when they were read him.

In view of his plea, counsel to EFCC, Andrew A. Akoja, asked for a trial date.

However, the defence counsel, A. Attah, prayed the court to admit the accused person to bail, adding that he would not do anything to frustrate his trial.

Justice Banjoko admitted the accused person to bail in the sum of N20million with two sureties in like sum. One of the first sureties must be a civil servant not below salary grade level 14, while the other surety must have a title deed anywhere in Nigeria and must depose to affidavit of means. The sureties must provide tax clearance of three years and must submit their passport photographs to the court.

The case has been adjourned to January 31, 2017 for hearing.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2241-efcc-arraigns-impostor-for-17-863-fraud>

7 DEC 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission:

Suspected Internet Fraudster Arraigned

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on Tuesday December 6, 2016 arraigned one Obohor John Damilola (a.k.a Frank Mcghee Clinton) before Justice D.U Okorowo of the Ekiti State High Court, Ado Ekiti, on a 24 count charge bordering obtaining money by false pretence, possession of fraudulent documents, concealment and retention of proceed of crime.

Obohor however pleaded not guilty.

One of the charges reads: "That you Obonor John Damilola (a.k.a Frank Mcghee Clinton) on or about the 21st of June, 2016 at Ado-Ekiti within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of \$3200 USD (Three Thousand Two Hundred United State of America Dollars) from Lusmar Duprey Marte, a United State of American Citizen when you falsely represented that you are one Frank Mcghee Clinton of the United States of American Army, which representation you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(a) and punishable under Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud

and Other Related punishable under Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Related Offences Act 2006".

Another count read: "That you Obonor John Damilola (a.k.a Frank Mcghee Clinton) on or about the 22nd of June, 2016 at Ado-Ekiti within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of \$3500 USD (Three Thousand Five Hundred United State of America Dollars) from Lusmar Duprey Marte, a United State of American Citizen when you falsely represented that you are one Frank Mcghee Clinton of the United States of American Army, which representation you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(a) and punishable under section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act 2006".

In view of his plea, the prosecution counsel Sanusi M. Galadanchi asked for a trial date. But counsel to the defendant, Olu Jaiyeoba informed the court that he has filed bail application and sought the court permission to move it.

Justice Okorowo, however adjourned the matter to the 9th of December, 2016 for the hearing of bail application and ordered that the defendant be remanded at the Federal Prison, Ado-Ekiti.

Obonor, a student of Ekiti State University who poses on the internet as an American Army Officer by the name Sergeant Frank Mcghee serving in Nigeria, allegedly engages unsuspecting ladies on the internet in a dating and romance scam through which he fleeced them of their money to the tune of N8million.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2228-suspected-internet-fraudster-arraigned>

7 DEC 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission:

Suspected Fraudster Docked for Allegedly Duping American \$629,287

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Wednesday December 7, 2016 arraigned one Dr. Vincent Anyigor and his company, Vanyigor Concepts Limited before Justice M. A. Liman of the Federal High Court, sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State on a 25-count charge bordering on conspiracy, uttering, forgery and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of USD 629,287.00 (Six Hundred and Twenty Nine Thousand, Two Hundred and Eighty Seven U.S Dollars).

The complainant alleged that sometime in October, 2010 he paid the sum of \$629,287.00 to Dr. Vincent Anyigor for the supply of Six million barrels of Bonny Light crude oil and that till date he is yet to receive the products or get a refund of his money.

Anyigor is alleged to be the leader of a syndicate and parades himself as an international operator in the oil and gas sector

The defendant pleaded not guilty when the charge was read to him.

In view of his plea, counsel to EFCC, U. R. Ewoh, asked the court for a date for trial. However, counsel to the defendant Chief Chuks Muom (SAN) urged the court to grant his client bail as the alleged offence is bailable.

Justice Liman granted the defendant bail in the sum of N100, 000,000.00 (One hundred million Naira), with two sureties in like sum. Each of the sureties must own a landed property worth N50,000,000.00 within the jurisdiction of the court. The court bailiff is to verify the property. The defendant is also to deposit his international passport with the court registrar.

The defendant is to be remanded in prison custody pending the perfection of his bail.

The case has been adjourned to 18 and 19 January, 2017 for trial.

Here is the URL of the article for as long as

it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2227-suspected-fraudster-docked-for-allegedly-duping-american-629-287>

5 DEC 2016

Fraudster Bags Two years Jail Term

Justice O. Tokode of the Federal High Court sitting in Benin city, Edo State on Monday December 5, 2016 convicted and sentenced one Fred Okeke to two years imprisonment.

Okeke was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on March 24, 2016 on a three count charge bordering on internet fraud, false representation and possession of fraudulent documents.

Okeke pleaded guilty to the three counts charge and was consequently convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run concurrently.

The presiding judge also ordered that the laptop recovered from the convict be forfeited to the federal government.

Okeke's journey to prison began when he was arrested by operatives of the EFCC in August 2015 following intelligence report linking him to a syndicate of internet fraudsters. Upon his arrest, incriminating documents and a laptop were recovered from him, where he was found to be using false identity in attempt to extort money from unsuspecting victims.

One of the charges reads, "That you Okeke Fred sometime in 2015 in Benin city, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court had in your possession documents containing a false representation to wit: fraudulent mails found in your laptop, which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 of the Advanced Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act and punishable under Section 1{3} of the said Act".

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2217-fraudster-bags-two-years-jail-term>

29 NOV 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

EFCC Impostor Bags 14years for N10m Scam

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, November 29, 2016 secured the conviction of a notorious fraudster, Abiodun Edward, a member of a syndicate which specializes in impersonating staff of the agency, to defraud unsuspecting victims.

Edward was arraigned on Wednesday, October 14, 2015 and prosecuted on a 3-count charge of impersonation and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of N10million before Justice Beatrice Iliya of the State High Court, Gombe.

The convict and his accomplices, Murtala Bello and Esther Momoh, who are still at large, had allegedly claimed to be staff of EFCC Abuja Office, in order to defraud one Umar Bello.

The complainant alleged that Bello had, on March 13, 2015 phoned him, assuring him that the convict could "kill" a petition purportedly written against him, if he could part with a sum of N10million.

Consequently, Bello was said to have sent the phone number of Momoh who claimed to be a principal detective superintendent, PDS, with EFCC to the victim for further discussion on how the money could be paid to them.

The complainant later alleged that after negotiation, the convict agreed to collect N300,000.00 (three hundred thousand naira) from him when he could not raise the initial N10million.

He further said one 'Laolu Adegbite' who claimed to be the officer handling his purported case, sent an SMS to him to appear before the Commission on March 23, 2015.

According to him, owing to the persistent threat by the convict, he paid the sum of N50,000.00 (fifty thousand naira) into the convict's Diamond Bank account number, 0044213102, which was sent to him by Momoh on March 25, 2015.

Worried by the persistent threat by the convict over the balance of N250,000.00 (two hundred and fifty thousand naira), the victim petitioned EFCC, which led to convict's arrest and subsequent prosecution.

Justice Iliya found Edward guilty of two counts and sentenced him to seven years imprisonment on each of the count without option of fine.

The sentences are to run concurrently from the date of the convict's arraignment.

Justice Iliya also ordered the convict to pay N50,000.00 (fifty thousand naira) as restitution to the victim.

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2203-efcc-impostor-bags-14years-for-n10m-scam>

24 NOV 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

Court Jails Fraudsters for Employment Scam

Justice J. K. Omotosho of Federal High Court Kano, today November 24, 2016 convicted and sentenced the duo of Emmanuel Moyi (a.k.a Abba Musa Bello) and Victor Ali Ishaya to sixty and fifty years imprisonment respectively on six count charges of conspiracy and obtaining money under false pretence.

The convicts journey to prison started when the Commission received a petition from victims alleging that the convicts obtained several sums of money from them under the guise that they were going to give them employment and contract. The convicts succeeded in their fraudulent activity through phone calls with different GSM numbers and phony names. After the victims realized they had been duped after parting with huge sums of money through different bank accounts.

However, further investigation by the EFCC revealed that those accounts were specifically opened by the convicts in order to perpetrate their fraudulent activities. The convicts were arraigned on 16th May, 2016 by the EFCC. Upon arraignment, they pleaded guilty to the charge read against them. In view of their plea, Justice Omotosho, asked the prosecution to produce their witnesses.

The prosecution counsel N.K. Ukoha after closing his case with only one witness, urged the court to convict the defendants accordingly. The matter was then adjourned till 24th November, 2016 for judgment.

In his Judgment, Justice Omotosho convicted and sentenced Moyi to ten years imprisonment with option N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira Only) fine, on each of count one to six while the second convict was sentenced to ten years imprisonment with option of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira Only) fine on each of count two to six. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes photos, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2194-court-jails-fraudsters-for-employment-scam>

18 NOV 2016

From Vanguard, a Nigerian newspaper:

EFCC to get 2% from recovered loots - Senate

By Henry Umoru ABUJA

Following its role in the anti-graft war, the Senate said yesterday that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, would be empowered to keep two percent of recovered loots as soon as the amendment of the Act which set it up was completed.

Speaking during a nationwide visit to offices of government agencies handling corruption-related cases, Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption, Senator Chukwuka Utazi, who led other members of the committee to Enugu State, said: "There is a bill for an Act to amend the EFCC laws. We will pass the bill next week."

"We have made provisions for the EFCC to auction seized assets. We have also made provisions for special funding for the EFCC. Going forward, the EFCC will keep two per cent of whatever it recovers for its operational cost."

"We have big plans to ensure that things are working well for the EFCC."

Utazi noted that the Senate was prepared to contribute its quota to the ongoing anti-corruption fight, which necessitated the committee's nationwide visit to offices of government agencies handling corruption-related cases.

Read more at: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/11/efcc-get-2-recovered-loots-senate/>

Here is the URL of the article for as long as it is good:

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/11/efcc-get-2-recovered-loots-senate/>

419 Coalition Note; Two things: Firstly, 419 Coalition has been suggesting for many years that the EFCC be used solely to combat "civilian" white collar crime, such as Advance Fee Fraud (419) and private sector fraud cases. We feel that "government" white collar crimes - such as embezzlement of public funds, bribery, and corruption - should be handled by the ICPC (Internal Corrupt Practices Commission). That would seem to be a reasonable division of labor to us, and would get the EFCC out of the often used argument that it is nothing much more than an instrument of Political witch hunting and retribution etc.

Secondly, in terms of Advance Fee Fraud (419); 419 Coalition has been recommending for Years that EFCC should be at least partially funded by receiving a percentage of Recovered and Repatriated 419ed funds and sales of 419ed assets. The operative term here is **Repatriated**. For victims of 419, even in the rare cases where monies are recovered, or in which judgements ordering restitution by a 419ers are made, these things do them no tangible good unless recovered monies are **Repatriated**.

We've spoken with many 419 victims over the years who were perfectly willing to let the EFCC keep 10% of **Repatriated** recovered 419ed stolen funds as a sort of "fee" as it were for their services and to fund their good work and encourage them to actively pursue more recoveries and repatriations.

For victims of 419, recovered monies do them no good if they are not repatriated, and promptly. For example, the EFCC has said in the past that they have something like \$700 million in recovered 419 victims' monies held in trust in the Central Bank of Nigeria. These funds are sitting there (we hope they are still there) not doing the victims of 419 any good. From a victim's point of view, it doesn't make a whole lot of difference if the 419ers hold the monies stolen from them, or the Nigerian Government holds the monies stolen from them - their money is still gone.....

419 Coalition again urges the EFCC to make far greater efforts to recover 419ed monies and assets, and to Repatriate what they recover to the victims of 419 - whose money it is.

17 NOV 2016

From The Sun, a Nigerian newspaper:

Internet fraudsters confess, "We hypnotise our victims to get their money"

By Charity Okorie - IBADAN

Three suspected internet fraudsters, popularly known as 'yahoo boys', arrested by the Oyo State Police Command have confessed that they hypnotise their victims before defrauding them of their money.

The suspects (Lanre Sadiq, 26; Sukanmi Daramola, 28; and Opeyemi Adedayo, 26) were picked up in their criminal hide out at Soka area, Ibadan by the command's Anti-Kidnapping Squad (AKS).

The suspects are said to have been elusive for some time before they were eventually arrested after several days of intelligence gathering and painstaking investigation carried out by the police.

During interrogation, the suspects confessed to being internet fraudsters, adding that they had defrauded many innocent victims - whom they referred to as 'clients' - of their hard earned money in naira and foreign currencies.

They also confessed that they often used charms to facilitate their illicit business. This they did by hypnotizing victims and 'commanding' them to part with their dollars and valuable properties. They further disclosed that those who had fallen victims included foreign nationals and Nigerians alike.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for the command, Mr. Adekunle Ajisebutu, who confirmed the arrest, stated that until their arrest, the three suspects were "into cyber crime popularly known as yahoo plus."

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Samuel Adegbuyi, he said, had directed that a discreet investigation be carried out about their other activities, at the end of which they would be arraigned in court. He advised young people to shun crime, and to engage in legitimate business, even as he vowed to prosecute unrepentant criminals in the state.

Exhibits recovered from the suspects include four laptops and an assortment of voodoo charms.

Here is the URL of the article for as long as it is good:

<http://sunnewsonline.com/internet-fraudsters-confess-we-hypnotise-our-victims-to-get-their-money/>

17 NOV 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

EFCC Urges Journalists to Be Frontlines in the Fight against Graft

The head of the South South Zonal office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Ishaq Salihu on Tuesday November 15, 2016 called on Nigeria journalists and other media practitioners to collaborate with the EFCC in the fight against corruption and financial crimes. According to Salihu, the fight against the social malaise of corruption can be won if journalists discharge their responsibilities professionally by holding the government accountable to the people.

Salihu made this remark while declaring open a training workshop the reporting of financial crimes organized by the EFCC for journalists in the South South zone of the country which held in Port Harcourt.

Osita Nwajah, Director, Public Affairs, who represented the Ag. Chairman, Ibrahim Magu at the event, said the workshop was organized as a way of interfacing with journalists and deepening the relationship between the Commission and the

media. He challenged participants to "become frontlines in the fight against corruption if we are to achieve the country of our dream".

Musikilu Mojeed, editor-in-chief of Premium Times, an online newspaper, in his paper, Journalism and the Fight Against Corruption, Lesson from Abroad, challenged journalists to go beyond the ordinary in the discharge of their duties by producing reports that could transform the society. He cited several instances across the world including the widely publicized Panama Papers where journalists through their stories got senior government officials to either resign or be prosecuted. In Ghana for instance, he cited the heroic effort of a journalist who, through undercover investigation, exposed corrupt judges who were consequently sacked and prosecuted.

In his paper, Law, Journalists and Flight Against Corruption, Gbemiga Ogunleye, Provost of Nigeria Institute of Journalism, NIJ, Lagos, lamented the nation's loss to corruption. He posited that Nigeria media was critical to building a better country and urged journalists to be factual in their reports. He said the Nigeria Constitution envisaged the importance of the Press and urged journalists to apply the law when necessary.

Osadolor Igozee, in his paper, Electronic Media and Investigative Reporting, New Trends and Opportunities posited that journalists would have to be daring and fearless if they are to be successful in investigative reporting. He encouraged them to look beyond the immediate gains and apply modern tools and techniques.

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2182-efcc-urges-journalists-to-be-frontlines-in-the-fight-against-graft>

419 Coalition Comment: Hey EFCC, in terms of the most infamous Financial Crime emanating from Nigeria; and journalistic and educational efforts to counter it; how about a mention of counter-419ing non-Nigerian NGO's? International Investigation Services (CEO Njall Hardarson) was the first online NGO on the job back in 1996, followed a couple of months later by us, the 419 Coalition. IIS gave counter-419ing up as pointless about a decade ago, but they did very good work for many years, but we at 419 Coalition are still here, of course. Ultrascan Advanced Investigation Services has done over a decade of good work, as has NExT Web Security and Fraudaid. And there are many more. How come we never get thank-yous or pats on the back from the Nigerian Government for a job well done? Collectively counter-419 NGO's have collectively educated Millions, if not Billions, of people on 419 Crime over the last 20 years, at no cost to the Nigerian Government. One would think that the Nigerian Government would be grateful and at least slide some accolades our way, send us a few invitations to counter-419 conferences, coordinate with us on a regular basis, maybe send along a few \$\$ here and there to assist us in our very cost-effective, efforts, send us a medal or two - but noooooooo..... what's up with that? :)

16 NOV 2016

From the Punch, a Nigerian newspaper:

EFCC arraigns husband, wife for \$120m fraud

Eniola Akinkuotu, Abuja

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has arraigned a married couple, Mr. Augustine Ezeama and Juliet Ezeama before Justice O. H. Oshodi of the Lagos State High Court Ikeja on seven counts of conspiracy and obtaining money under false pretences.

According to the EFCC, the couple had on May 6, 2015, obtained \$30,570 from a firm, CIFERCOM LLC under the pretext that the money was for registration of CIFERCOM LLC as a company in Nigeria preparatory to the award of an \$8m contract to CIFERCOM LLC by the Federal Government.

One of the charges read, "That you, on Augustine Ezeama, Juliet Ezeama and Mabrubeni Nigeria Limited, on or about the 6th of May, 2015 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this honourable court with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of \$30,570 from CIFERCOM LLC under the false pretences that the money was for registration of CIFERCOM LLC as a company in Nigeria preparatory to the award of \$8m contract to CIFERCOM LLC by the Federal

Government of Nigeria, which representation you knew to be false."

They both pleaded not guilty to the charges preferred against them.

Justice Oshodi remanded the defendants in EFCC custody and subsequently adjourned the matter till November 21, 2016 for bail application.

Here is the URL of the article, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:
<http://punchng.com/efcc-arraigns-husband-wife-120m-fraud/>

11 NOV 2016
From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

EFCC Arrests Suspected Internet Fraudster

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has arrested one Fasakin Festus Damilola for Internet fraud.

Fasakin, a French graduate of Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, poses as Anthony Miller, Dave Mason and Bright Washington to deceive and defraud unsuspecting ladies in romance scam on the internet.

At the point of arrest, EFCC operatives recovered one Dodge Caliber Sxi car with registration number EKY-145EC, NYSC clearance/discharge letter, three copies of fake international passport data pages with different names and pictures, two drivers' license and suspected fake bank documents from him.

The Commission got wind of his fraudulent activities through series intelligence. He is alleged to have fleeced different unsuspecting victims to the tune of Two Million, Two Hundred Thousand Naira (N2, 200,000.00).

Fasakin uses the fake international passports to collect his loots at the Moneygram desk with the connivance of bank officials who allegedly collects 10% on each Moneygram transaction.

He will be arraigned in court as soon as investigation is completed.

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:
<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2166-efcc-arrests-suspected-internet-fraudster>

10 NOV 2016
From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

EFCC Arrests Suspected Love Scammer

The Ibadan Zonal Office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has arrested one Obohor John Damilola for Internet fraud. Obohor, a 26-year-old student of Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, fleeces unsuspecting victims on military dating sites while posing as Nigeria-based US Army Officer by the name Sergeant Frank Mcghee.

At the point of arrest, EFCC operatives recovered one voter's card and a debit card bearing Obohor John Damilola from him.

The Commission got wind of his fraudulent activities through series of intelligence reports on his suspicious transactions in one of the branches of an old generation bank in Ado Ekiti, through which he received about Seven Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ninety Nine Naira (N7, 453, 799.00) from victims.

The victims include one L. D Marte who lost Six Million, Two Hundred and Sixteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Two Naira (N6, 216,732)

to the suspect. Others are P. Martinez, six Hundred and Seventy Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Seven naira (N672, 887.00); E. Rosales, Thirty Thousand and Sixty Five Naira (N30, 065.00) and R. Rosario, Five Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred and Fifteen Naira (N534, 115.00).

Obohor, who confessed to the crime, claimed he was forced to embrace the scam to raise money to finance his education.

He will be arraigned in court as soon as investigation is completed.

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2154-efcc-arrests-suspected-love-scammer>

9 NOV 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

EFCC Nabs Man for Impersonation

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 arrested a suspected fraudster, Elvis Yemaye for allegedly defrauding one A.J. Kuba, a Czech, to the tune of \$19,534 (nineteen thousand, five hundred and thirty four US dollars).

The petitioner alleged that Yemaye in connivance with his cronies had swindled him of huge sum of money running to millions while threatening to release the recorded romance video of him to the public.

According to the complainant, Yemaye started his blackmail when the victim decided to back out from an earlier business of making him (Kuba) a beneficiary of his inheritance, a business he found out to be a scam.

Investigation into the matter revealed that, the suspect falsely represented himself to the unsuspecting Kuba as Chief Barrister Elvis Yemaye. He also parades himself as an official of both the EFCC and the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN using various fictitious e-mails.

It was also discovered that the suspect claimed to be one Tommy Rex Jr. whose picture he used to lure his victim to sending money to him under the pretext of making him a beneficiary of his inheritance.

The suspect will be charged to court as soon as investigation is concluded.

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2156-efcc-nabs-man-for-impersonation>

27 OCT 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

EFCC Docks Man for N6.5m Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, October 27, 2016 arraigned one Moses Godia Shipi, managing director, La Shipson Construction Nigeria Limited before Justice Hussein Baba-Yusufu of the Federal High Court sitting in Maitama, Abuja on a 16-count charge bordering on conspiracy, forgery and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of N6.5million.

Shipi allegedly conspired with one Harrison Ogar Job (at large) to defraud one Abiola Jacobs of Delmac Nigeria Limited of the said sum under the pretext that he had a contract for the supply of crude oil from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, to Ghana.

The offence is in contravention of Section 8 (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud

and Other Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act.

The accused person pleaded not guilty to the charges preferred against him.

Upon his plea, counsel to EFCC, Diane Nkwap urged the court to fix a date for trial to commence and asked that the accused person be remanded in prison custody.

But, Shippi's counsel, Caleb N. Ramnap prayed the court to admit his client to bail adding that the offence is bailable.

Justice Baba-Yusuf admitted the accused person to bail in the sum of N5million with one responsible surety who must be a civil servant not below GL12 or any other person who has a landed property within the FCT.

The case has been adjourned to January 24, 2017 for hearing.

Meanwhile, one Okunmwendia Victor was also arraigned today before Justice P. I. Ajoku of the Federal High Court, Benin City on a three count charge bordering on fraud and obtaining by false pretense.

Okunmwendia 29, a graduate of Delta State university is alleged to have presented himself as Sister Julia Imoke, founder and coordinator of Happy Home Orphanage in his attempt to extort money from unsuspecting persons.

One of the counts reads, "that you Okunmwendia O. Victor "M" (alias Sister Julia Imoke of Happy Home Orphanage) and others now at large on or about the 24th of January 2016 in Benin city, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court with intent to defraud, did obtain the sum of 900 US Dollars from one Ada k. "F" through Western union money transfer under the false pretence that you are sister Julia Imoke, the founder and coordinator of a non existing Happy Home Orphanage, a pretext you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act,2006 and punishable under Section 1(3)of the same Act".

The accused person pleaded not guilty when the charge was read to him.

Counsel to the Commission, M T Iko asked the court to fix a date for trial and to remand the defendants in prison custody. Attempt by the defense counsel, Osman Idehen to move for bail was refused by the court.

Justice Ajoku adjourned the matter to November 16 for trial and ordered that the defendant be remanded in prison custody.

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2133-efcc-docks-man-for-n6-5m-fraud>

25 OCT 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

EFCC Arraigns Driver for Duping Briton 182,064.99 Pounds

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arraigned a driver, Chinwoke Onyedinazu before Justice M. A. Liman of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, for duping a Briton, Paul H., the sum of One Hundred and Eighty Two Thousand, Sixty Four Pounds, Ninety Nine Shillings (182, 064.99).

He was docked on a nine-count charge bordering on obtaining by false pretense.

Onyedinazu was a former driver of Mr. Paul while he was residing in Nigeria. In 2014, Onyedinazu reportedly proposed a fish farming business to the Briton and the latter accepted the proposal.

He later relocated to his country but kept faith with the business idea of his former driver and transferred the sum of 182,064.99 Pounds (equivalent of N60,000,000 at that time) to Onyedinazu.

However, the driver never pursued the business proposed to Henderson but diverted the money into his own use.

Count one of the charge read: "that you Chinweoke Onyedinazu on or about 21st day of October, 2014 in Port Harcourt within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, with intent to defraud deceitfully obtained the sum of Ninety-Five thousand Pounds (95,000:00) from Mr. Paul H. a British citizen, whom you obtained his money under false pretence that you were offered a contract of supply of fish to the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), a pretext which you knew to be false and you fraudulently made it, with the intent that he may believe it, and he believed it and acted upon it as genuine, and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (1)(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable by Section 1 (3) of the same law".

He pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to him.

In view of his plea, prosecution counsel, C. A. Okoli, asked for a date for the commencement of the trial and that the defendant be remanded in prison custody. However, defense counsel, O. Wonah applied for bail for his client pending trial.

Okoli however opposed the bail application on the ground that the defendant had earlier jumped an administrative bail offered him by the Commission.

Justice Liman adjourned the matter to 27 October, 2016 for trial and ordered the defendant to be remanded in prison custody.

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2128-efcc-arraigns-driver-for-duping-briton-182-064-99-pounds>

29 SEP 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

Internet Fraudster Bags Two Years Jail Term In Delta State

A Federal High Court sitting in Warri, Delta State has convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment one Ighofose Oyoma. Ighofose was first arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on 3rd May, 2016 on a seven count charge bordering on Conspiracy, Forgery and Obtaining Money by False Pretence to the tune of Nine Thousand Two Hundred United States Dollars (\$9,200).

Upon his arraignment, the convict pleaded not guilty to the charge, but later changed his plea to "guilty".

Justice E. A. Obile consequently convicted Ighofose and sentenced him to two years imprisonment with an option of N300,000.00 (three hundred thousand naira) fine to be forfeited to Federal Government. He also ordered that the payment receipt be deposited to the court registry.

Ighofose was arrested sometime in May, 2015 in Calabar, Cross River State following intelligence report on his involvement in internet scams.

During investigation different scam mails which he used in defrauding his victims, mostly foreign women by presenting himself as Mike Anderson, an American businessman, were recovered.

Count one of the charge reads: "that you Ighofose Oyoma (a k a) Mike Anderson on or about the month of May, 2014, at Warri, Delta State within the jurisdiction of this Honorable court did possess documents containing

false representation as Mike Anderson, which said representation you made to Sandra 'M' and obtained the sum of \$1,200 (USD) under false pretence, a pretext you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 1 (1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under section 1 (3) of the said Act".

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2082-internet-fraudster-bags-two-years-jail-term-in-delta-state>

23 SEP 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC):

EFCC Arrests Two Internet Fraudsters

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has arrested the duo of Egbedayo Semilore and Elijah Jeremiah aka (Jerry), a self styled fashion Director of Datsol Industries Limited for alleged Internet fraud. While Semilore, 26, engages in Internet love scam, Jeremiah, 29, is a predator on online auction sites.

Semilore while posing as an Afghan based US Army officer with the names Sergeant Shaft Pagan and Perrie Edingson allegedly defrauded unsuspecting ladies. His last victim is one P. J. full names withheld), a US national from whom he claimed to have obtained about Four million naira (N4m) in tranches and bought himself a car.

Though arrested differently, the suspects have both made confessional statements. Jeremiah confessed to using fake instruments to order goods from China through online auction sites. According to him, he downloads Letters of Credit purportedly issued by Scotia Online Financial Services of Scotia bank worldwide from Google with which he pays for his purchases.

The auctioneers, unaware of his antics often fall victim of his game by shipping the goods to him ahead of confirmation of payment.

Semilore, during interrogation also confessed to have used proceeds of romance scam to sustain a flamboyant lifestyle and bought himself a 2010 Lexus car which he registered in his mother's name.

Operatives recovered several items from the suspects. One laptop, three modems, one iphone and two Nokia phones, international Passport, forged Union Bank Statement of Account with NUBAN number:10141411389 for Datsol Industries Limited and an envelope containing several documents were recovered from Jeremiah.

Also, three identity cards bearing different names and biodata, a 2010 Black Toyota Lexus car with registration number (Lagos) SMK 475 EH, two laptops and one Blackberry Passport phones were recovered from Semilore. Several scam mails were also found and retrieved from his laptops. They will be arraigned in court as soon as investigation is completed.

Here is the URL of the Press Release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/news/2077-efcc-arrests-two-internet-fraudsters>

27 AUG 2016

From the Nigerian newspaper, the Punch:

EFCC arrests five varsity students for N16m fraud

by Olufemi Atoyebi, Ibadan

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has arrested four

students of Federal University of Technology, Akure, and one student of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba, for their alleged role in N16m fraud.

The suspects are Adeleke Paul, 21; Adebisi Abudu, 22; Akinsanmi Adeniyi 21; Ogundile James, 23; and Okali Ugochukwu, 21.

A statement by the EFCC said the suspects were picked up at an off-campus residence located at Anuoluwapo Close, Stateline Hotel Road, off FUTA South Gate, Akure, Ondo State.

The statement said that the commission got wind of the suspects' activities through intelligence.

The statement said, "Paul and his co-travelers, who go about with the name Tsunami Gang and Young Pablo Money, allegedly swindled unsuspecting foreigners and others to the tune of N16m recently by engaging in fraudulent activities of obtaining money by false pretences through scam mails."

Paul is a 300 student of Building Technology while James and Olusola are both 400 level students of Agricultural Resources and Mathematics respectively. Okali is a 200 level student of Urban and Regional Planning, while Adebisi Tayo is a 300 level student of Mathematics.

The statement added, "At the point of arrest, EFCC operatives recovered a 2006, black Toyota Highlander marked LND 112 EG; a 2010 Toyota Camry marked AAA 850 EF; laptops; three Apple iPhone 6; and three Blackberry phones from them. Some implicating documents were also found and downloaded from their laptops."

The commission said that the suspects would be arraigned in court after investigation.

Here is the URL of the article, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:
<http://punchng.com/efcc-arrests-five-varsity-students-n16m-fraud/>

25 AUG 2016

From Vanguard, a Nigerian newspaper:

EFCC detains man over \$145,000 love scam

By Soni Daniel

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, arrested one Iwuchukwu Martin Uche for obtaining money under false pretence to the tune of \$145,000.

Uche, who claimed to be a military officer working for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, in Kabul, Afghanistan allegedly, collected the money from his victim, H. Uyen, a Vietnamese woman, after promising to marry her.

The suspect, who also claimed to be a property agent operating in Nigeria and Ghana, allegedly told the victim that he needed the money to procure some documents for the planned wedding.

The money was allegedly wired to the suspect's Diamond Bank account number: 0028998256.

A statement by the Spokesman, Mr. Wilson Uwujaren, said the suspect would soon be charged to court.

Here is the URL of the article, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:
<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2016/08/efcc-detains-man-145000-love-scam/>

18 AUG 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) website:

EFCC Arrests Fake Lamorde, Youth Corper and Five Others for Internet Scam

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested a suspected impersonator posing as the former Executive Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ibrahim Lamorde.

The suspect, Promise Tochi Nwalozie was arrested in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, in a sting operation that yielded the arrest of six other internet fraudsters. One of the fraudsters, Onukagba Uche Prosper, is a youth corps member serving in the Tai Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Nwalozie was using the identity of Lamorde to send scam mails to foreigners, mostly Europeans and Americans and in the process extorted sizeable amount of foreign currencies from them. His weapon of fraudulent interaction with his victims was a fake electronic copy of the identity card of the former EFCC's boss. Besides, he was also posing as Barrister Peter Jackson, a spurious lawyer working with the National Judicial Council, NJC in Nigeria. As a lawyer, he was defrauding his victims by assuring them that he would help in the recovery of money lost to different Nigerian cyber fraudsters. To do this, Jackson was collecting various sums of money as service charges from his victims. Some of his victims are: Betty. G. E, an American and Georgina M, an Australian.

In addition to all these, Nwalozie had multifarious electronic scam documents in various folders in his e-mail box, ostensibly for the payment of a spurious N12,500,000.00(Twelve Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira only) to one Robert Giese, an American, by the "Office of the Presidency, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Abuja". To further deceive Giese, he swore to a fictitious "Affidavit Of Claim of Federal High Court of Nigeria" deposed to by a fake Justice Ibrahim Auta, OFR, on behalf of Giese. The "Affidavit" was signed by a former Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Mohammed Bello Adoke. To achieve his fraudulent schemes, he had several e-mail addresses such as:sirpeterjackson@gmail.com,promisenwalozie@gmail.com, bigenoughforcare@gmail.com among others.

Aside Prosper, (youth corps member), five other internet scammers were arrested in the sting operation and they are: Onuoha Akachukwu Danhessy; Ohaji Ujunwa Raymond, a.k.a Francis Ray Emar; Henry Onyebuchi Ogbonna; Eboh Emeka Emmanuel and Nwaorgu Chidi Precious. Prosper was involved in online dating scam, also known as romance scam. Through the scam, he defrauded unsuspecting foreign widows, mostly from Europe and America. His scam identity was Mark Fest, a United States soldier serving in Bulgaria. To perfect his fraudulent schemes, he secured a "business relationship" with one of the arrested fraudsters, Onuoha Akachukwu Danhessy, his cousin.

Danhessy was serving as an intermediary between him and one H. Macaulay, a Nigerian undergraduate at the Medical University, Varna, Bulgaria who was assisting him to collect and send proceeds of their criminality to Nigeria, through Western Union and Money Gram money. All the three victims of Prosper are Philipinos: Ivy P. S, (\$2,000); Mel R.(800 Pound Sterling) and Lolita T. Danhessy has other ingenious schemes to his credit. In his romance scam, he had reportedly raked in a total sum of \$50,000(Fifty Thousand United States Dollar) from Maria J. Al, an American that he promised to marry.

Ohaji Ujunwa Raymond a.k.a Francis Ray Emar is another suspected impersonator who was sending scam e-mails to his victims in Europe and America in the name of Abubakar Malami (SAN), Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Mrs. Kemi Adeosun, Minister of Finance. One of his victims, Georgina M, an Australian, lost \$1,500(One Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars) to him. Other suspected scammers

are Henry Onyebuchi Ogbonna, a member of a syndicate serving as a cashier to his group members, Eboh Emeka Emmanuel, another romance scammer that duped a Dubai-based Philippino: E. F. Aquino of N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira only) and Nwaorgu Chidi Precious, another accessory to romance scam and cashier to Nwalozie.

All the suspects are in EFCC custody and would be charged to court soon.

Here is the URL of the Press Release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/2053-efcc-arrests-fake-lamorde-youth-corper-and-five-others-for-internet-scam>

17 AUG 2016

From the New York Daily News, sent in by
Ultrascan AGI:

Man victimized in online romance stole \$1.4M from two
Pittsburgh-area employers

PITTSBURGH - A man federal prosecutors say was victimized in an overseas, online romance scam has pleaded guilty to wire fraud for stealing more than \$1.4 million from two Pittsburgh-area companies whose funds he controlled.

Jeffery Plimpton, 59, acknowledged using more than \$13,000 of the money he stole to pay his mortgage, and nearly \$69,000 to pay credit card bills. But most of the money - nearly \$1.39 million - was sent overseas "at the direction of a woman with whom he had an online relationship," Assistant U.S. Attorney Shardul Desai told a judge Wednesday. At least some of the money was sent to Malaysia.

Plimpton stole the money from Alpha Aromatics, a fragrance company, and a subsidiary, Pestco Professional Services, a pest control firm, while working as Alpha's controller from April 2014 until the thefts were discovered in an internal accounting review in December. Plimpton was fired then confessed stealing the money to company officials and, eventually, the FBI, Desai said.

Confronted by Alpha's chief operating officer, Plimpton "claimed he invested company funds in offshore accounts," Desai said. He's since repaid \$50,000.

Plimpton, who now lives in Southaven, Mississippi, honestly believed the overseas money was to be invested by a woman he met online, public defender Linda Cohn told the judge.

"There's no indication that actually was a woman. That was someone Mr. Plimpton believed was a woman," Cohn told U.S. District Judge Nora Barry Fischer. "He also wants the court to know how truly sorry for his conduct he is, your honor."

Outside court, Cohn declined to further explain the situation.

The attorneys have agreed that federal guidelines call for a prison term of between 33 and 41 months when Plimpton returns for sentencing Dec. 15. The judge allowed him to remain free on bond until then.

Desai acknowledged that Plimpton's behavior was driven "pretty much by a romance fraud-type situation."

Desai wouldn't detail who wound up with the money overseas but "it's definitely fair to say the money's gone. It wasn't a legitimate person for the money to go to."

Online dating scams, particularly those involving overseas financial fraud, have become more common in recent years.

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center logged 12,509 victims of

"Confidence Fraud/Romance" scams who lost more than \$203 million last year. So far this year, the center has 7,462 complaints resulting in nearly \$120 million in losses.

In April, Sigismond Segbefia, a native of Ghana who lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, was sentenced to two years in prison by a federal judge in Pittsburgh after pleading guilty to charges that he bilked a Pennsylvania woman he met online out of more than \$220,000.

Segbefia, 29, used the name and address of an unwitting Pittsburgh-area postal worker to make his online identity seem more legitimate, but claimed to be a 55-year-old Australian who owned a western Pennsylvania medical supply business, authorities say. He got the woman to send him money by claiming he needed it to ship medical devices from his company to England.

In another con, Segbefia admitted he pretended to be a 51-year-old Army sergeant in Afghanistan. That online dating victim wired him more than \$505,000 over six months.

Here is the URL of the article for as long as it is good:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/man-victimized-online-romance-stole-1-4m-employer-article-1.2755267>

1 AUG 2016

From the BBC, UK:

Online fraud: Top Nigerian scammer arrested

A Nigerian behind thousands of online scams around the world has been arrested in the southern oil city of Port Harcourt, Interpol alleges.

The 40-year-old man, known only as "Mike" is alleged to head a network of 40 individuals behind global scams worth more than \$60m (45m UK pounds).

His operations involved using malware to take over systems to compromise emails, as well as romance scams.

Nigeria's anti-fraud agency was also involved in the arrest.

They are considered something of a joke by most of the millions of people who receive scam emails in their inbox every day - but they only have to be believed by a tiny percentage of people.

The numbers quickly add up, and the money which can be made by the online criminals is considerable.

In recent years the scam campaigns have become more malicious, involving hijacking someone's PC or luring naive internet users into believing they have found love online with the aim of emptying their bank accounts.

Although there is a thriving cottage industry of fraudsters in Nigeria, the reality is that scammers are based in every country.

Wherever criminals see an opportunity to make money, they will.

And they know that if they are careful in how they use the internet, they can cover their tracks and reduce their chances of identification.

"Mike" also allegedly ran a money laundering network in China, Europe and the US.

"The network compromised email accounts of small to medium-sized businesses around the world including in Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, Romania, South Africa, Thailand and the United States," it said.

They would then send fake messages to buyers with instructions to make

a payment to a bank account under their control.

The other strategy they used was to take over the email account of a high-level executive and give instructions to transfer money into a bank account they controlled.

The suspect and an accomplice, who was also arrested in the city, face charges including hacking, conspiracy and obtaining money under false pretences.

They are currently out on bail as investigations continue, the statement said.

Here is the URL of the article for as long as it is good:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-36939751>

This story was covered by the media worldwide, including CNN in the US, and in the Nigerian media as well, of course.

Here is the official press release in this case from from the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission website, dated 1 AUG 2016:

Ring Leader of Global Network Behind Thousands of Online Scams,
Arrested in Nigeria

RIVER STATE, Nigeria – The head of an international criminal network behind thousands of online frauds has been arrested in a joint operation by INTERPOL and the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC).

The 40-year-old Nigerian national, known as 'Mike', is believed to be behind scams totalling more than USD 60 million involving hundreds of victims worldwide. In one case a target was conned into paying out USD 15.4 million.

The network compromised email accounts of small to medium businesses around the world including in Australia, Canada, India, Malaysia, Romania, South Africa, Thailand and the US, with the financial victims mainly other companies dealing with these compromised accounts.

Heading a network of at least 40 individuals across Nigeria, Malaysia and South Africa which both provided malware and carried out the frauds, the alleged mastermind also had money laundering contacts in China, Europe and the US who provided bank account details for the illicit cash flow.

Following his arrest in Port Harcourt in southern Nigeria, a forensic examination of devices seized by the EFCC showed he had been involved in a range of criminal activities including business e-mail compromise (BEC) and romance scams.

The main two types of scam run by the 40-year-old targeted businesses were payment diversion fraud – where a supplier's email would be compromised and fake messages would then be sent to the buyer with instructions for payment to a bank account under the criminal's control – and 'CEO fraud'.

In CEO fraud, the email account of a high-level executive is compromised and a request for a wire transfer is sent to another employee who has been identified as responsible for handling these requests. The money is then paid into a designated bank account held by the criminal.

'Mike' first came onto the law enforcement radar through a report provided to INTERPOL by Trend Micro, one of its strategic partners at the INTERPOL Global Complex for Innovation (IGCI) in Singapore. This, combined with actionable analysis and intelligence from Fortinet Fortiguard Labs in 2015, enabled specialists at the INTERPOL Digital Crime Centre, including experts from Cyber Defense Institute based at the IGCI, and the EFCC to locate the suspect in Nigeria, resulting in his arrest in June.

Abdul Chukkool, Head of the EFCC's Cybercrime Section said the transnational nature of business e-mail compromise makes it complex to crack, but the arrest sent a clear signal that Nigeria could not be considered a safe haven for criminals.

"For a long time we have said in order to be effective, the fight against

cybercrime must rely on public-private partnerships and international cooperation," said Mr Chukkol.

"The success of this operation is the result of close cooperation between INTERPOL and the EFCC, whose understanding of the Nigerian environment made it possible to disrupt the criminal organization's network traversing many countries, targeting individuals and companies," added Mr Chukkol.

Noboru Nakatani, Executive Director of the IGCI warned that BEC poses a significant and growing threat, with tens of thousands of companies victimized in recent years.

"The public, and especially businesses, need to be alert to this type of cyber-enabled fraud," said Mr Nakatani.

"Basic security protocols such as two-factor authentication and verification by other means before making a money transfer are essential to reduce the risk of falling victim to these scams."

"It is exactly through this type of public and private sector cooperation that INTERPOL will continue to help member countries in bringing cybercriminals to justice no matter where they are," concluded Mr Nakatani.

The 40-year-old, along with a 38-year-old also arrested by Nigerian authorities, faces charges including hacking, conspiracy and obtaining money under false pretences. Both are currently on administrative bail as the investigation continues.

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/2035-ring-leader-of-global-network-behind-thousands-of-online-scams-arrested-in-nigeria>

419 Coalition note: Good on all the agencies involved, and assume there is a good reason the 419ers' full names are not given..... however....

Bail for these fellas? Hard to believe..... good luck with that....

26 JUL 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission website:

EFCC to Arraign Suspected Fraudsters over \$530,000 Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the leave of a Kano High Court sitting Kano, to arraign the duo of Saminu Umar Ta'ambu and Ahmed Maiturare of the popular kantin kwari textile market, Kano for offences bordering on obtaining by false pretence. They allegedly used the name of Kano State government to induce a Swiss National, Mathias Hee, Owner of Okutex Ag, into supplying them with fabrics worth Five Hundred and Thirty Thousand US Dollars (\$530,000)

Justice Dije Aboki gave the nod after hearing argument on the application for leave to prefer charge against the suspects by EFCC Counsel A.T. Habib. The leave is pursuant to Section 185(b) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

The prime suspect Ta'ambu was alleged to have approached a Swiss National named Mathias Hee and owner Okutex Ag, a textile manufacturing company, around July, 2015 requesting for the supply of fabrics To the tune of Five Hundred and Thirty Thousand US Dollars (\$530,000) under the pretext that he acted on behalf of Kano State Government and forged a document titled 'Authorization to transfer to foreign account' purported to have been issued and signed by the authority of the Government of Kano State.

After the items were supplied, Ta'ambu failed to honour his part of the bargain and refused to remit the amount as agreed.

Justice Dije adjourned the matter to 5 October, 2016 for arraignment.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes photos, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/2034-efcc-to-arraign-suspected-fraudsters-over-530-000-fraud>

26 JUL 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission website:

EFCC Arrests Five Undergraduates Over N16 Million Internet Fraud

The EFCC, Ibadan Zonal Office, has arrested five suspected undergraduate scammers. Four from the Federal University of Technology Akure, (FUTA) and one from Adekunle Ajashin University, Akungba, (AAUA). They were picked up at an Off- Campus Residence located at Anuoluwapo Close, Stateline Hotel Road, off FUTA South Gate, Akure, Ondo State.

The suspects who are between the ages of 20 and 23 include: Adeleke Paul, 21, Adebisi Tayo Abudu, 22, Akinsanmi Olusola Adeniyi 21, Ogundile Ademola James, 23 and Okali Ugochukwu, 21.

The Commission got wind of their activities through series of gathered intelligence.

Paul and his co-travelers, who go about with the name Tsunami Gang and Young Pablo Money allegedly swindled unsuspecting foreigners and others to the tune of Sixteen million naira (N16M) recently by engaging in fraudulent activities of obtaining money by false pretences through scam mails.

Paul is a 300 student of Building Technology while James and Olusola are both 400 level students of Agricultural Resources and Mathematics respectively. Okali is a 200 level student of Urban and Regional Planning, while Adebisi Tayo is a 300 level Student of Mathematics of the Adekunle Ajashin University Akungba, Ondo State.

At the point of arrest, EFCC operatives recovered a 2006, black Toyota Highlander with registration number (Lagos) LND 112 EG, 2010 light-green Toyota Camry (Muscle) with registration number (Lagos) AAA 850 EF, laptops, three Apple iPhone 6 and three Blackberry phones from them.

Some implicating documents were also found and downloaded from their laptops.

They are to be arraigned in court as soon as investigation is completed.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/2033-efcc-arrests-five-undergraduates-over-n16-million-internet-fraud>

6 JUN 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) website:

Suspected Cyber Crooks Docked for \$2,974 Scam

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on June 6, 2016 arraigned the duo of John Elijah Edet and Jeffery Ulu Orji before Justice U.N Agomoh of the Federal High Court, Port Harcourt, Rivers State on an 8-count charge of internet fraud and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy Four US Dollars (\$2,974).

The accused persons were apprehended following an intelligence report on their alleged fraudulent escapades. Upon their arrest, various scam mails were printed from their laptops which they use in defrauding unsuspecting victims.

One of the count reads: "that you John Elijah Edet (alias Lars Ernest Eivinsen) and Jeffery Ulu Orji (alias Michael) and others now at large on or about the 28th of December 2015 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State

within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did conspire to commit felony to wit: obtaining money by false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 8 (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act".

Among others, one of the accused was alleged to have obtained the sum of \$1,700 from one Renee M. through S. Alexander in the U.S via moneygram, while posing as a 50-year-old widower in search of a wife.

The accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charge.

In view of their plea, the prosecution counsel, Ramiah Ikhanaede asked the court to fix a date for trial and to remand the accused persons in prison custody.

Justice Agomoh adjourned the matter to September 21, 27 and 28 for trial and ordered that the defendants be remanded in prison custody.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes pictures, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/1942-suspected-cyber-crooks-docked-for-2-974-scam>

27 MAY 2016

From Nigeriatoday, a Nigerian news website, sent in by Ultrascan AGI:

Evil Genius: Nigerian man nabbed in India for defrauding 90 people via online lottery scam

A Nigerian man, Festus Abraham Igwe, has been arrested by the Cyber Crime Department of the Indian Police in Pune, after he allegedly defrauded over 90 people of various sums of money, through an online lottery scam, Indian Times reports.

The 43-year-old Igwe who resides in New Delhi, was accused of running 14 different accounts in reputed banks where the proceeds from his fraud were deposited.

The accused was arrested on Tuesday, May 24 and brought to Pune, and will be in police custody till May 31, when the case will be charged to court.

In a statement, the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the Cyber and Economic Offence Wing, Deepak Sakore said, that investigation was initiated by the Pune Police after a woman lodged a complaint of losing Rs 16.18 lakh to fraudsters in January.

The statement reads:

"The woman received a mail in September 2015, informing her that she has won a lottery worth Rs 4.92 crore. She provided her bank and other details as asked in the mail.

The accused then called up the woman and asked her to deposit money from time to time under the pretext of various taxes and fees."

Igwe was to later meet with the woman at a hotel in the town and gave a bag, telling her that it contained US dollars and even took out four notes from the bundle which he applied some chemical on the notes to show its genuineness.

"He told her that since the chemical was over, he will have to procure it from the UK, so that remaining notes can be analysed. He then left by handing over the suitcase to the woman."

Sakore continued by saying that the woman took the notes to the foreign exchange, where she came to know that the suitcase contained

cut to size plain papers.

After realising that she has been duped, the woman lodged a police complaint and Igwe was tracked and arrested him in New Delhi.

It was during investigations that it was realised that Igwe had duped several other people using the same scam.

Here is the URL of the article, which includes a photo of Igwe, for as long as it remains good:

<http://www.nigeriatoday.ng/2016/05/evil-genius-nigerian-man-nabbed-india-defrauding-90-people-via-online-lottery-scam-2/>

27 MAY 2016

Yet another interesting article based on the Cormac Hurley (of Microsoft) study of 419 solicitation data has recently come to our attention. The article, by Micheal Kassner, was posted in Tech Republic (US) 30 JUL 2012. It has too many tables and charts for us to reproduce here, so here is the URL, for as long as it is good:

<http://www.techrepublic.com/blog/it-security/the-truth-behind-those-nigerian-419-scammers/>

This would seem to be a good time to mention again the position of 419 Coalition and many others with expertise on 419, on the Hurley study. In brief, we feel that while the raw data is valid, the interpretation of it is purely speculative, and inaccurate.

For reference, here is what we had to say on this in our 2015 News section on 15 AUG, in commenting on an article which appeared in the Washington Post, and our position has not changed in the matter:

419 Coalition comments: We want to remind readers that 419 Advance Fee Fraud is a Subset of Advance Fee Fraud in General. 419 Advance Fee Fraud is defined as Advance Fee Fraud with a West African connection. This connection can be the origination point of the fraud attempt, or it can be the origination place of the 419er. Thus, an Advance Fee Fraud attempt originating, for example, from Outer Mongolia, would be 419 AFF if the fraudster(s)themselves were of West African origin or were locals operating at the behest of a West African based 419 syndicate.

Also, this article appears to deal primarily with what is classed as Classic 419. As the reader of this site knows very well there are many, many types of 419, such as Lottery 419 and Romance 419 to mention just a couple of them.

Regarding Mr. Hurley's study, which maintains that 419ers deliberately mention Nigeria in their solicitations in order to weed out the wary, 419 Coalition would like to mention that we, and many other experts in the field like Ultrascan AGI, have found that in our experience quite the opposite is the case - ie. most 419ers go to great lengths to NOT mention Nigeria, or Nigerians in their solicitations; and that in general 419ers who Do mention Nigeria or Nigerians tend to do so primarily for logistical reasons required by their local or main office operational requirements.

16 MAY 2016

From The Sun Daily, a Malaysian newspaper, sent in by a concerned Malaysian:

Woman ends up losing RM2m in online love scam

by Ashwin Kumar
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: An online love affair ended badly for a woman who lost RM2 million in an internet scam run by a local-Africa syndicate.

However, Federal CCID deputy director (Intelligence and Operations) SAC Roslan Abd Wahid told theSun, that acting on information, they swung into action and arrested three syndicate members in Taman Maluri in Cheras and Taman Megah in Kajang on Sunday.

He said the arrest of the two Nigerians and a local aged between 31 and 56 in the raids held between 10pm and 1am had helped them solve some eight online romance scam cases with victims losing about RM2.1 million.

It is understood that the local suspect acted as a negotiator, courier service agent and a Customs Department officer in the syndicate.

Roslan said the victim, who is from Shah Alam, was duped into parting with RM2 million of her company's money.

Police also seized from the suspects seven ATM cards, six mobile phones, two laptops, RM11,533 cash and a car, believed to have been used by the syndicate to cheat their victims.

Meanwhile, in a separate press conference, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar warned members of the public to be more careful and not fall prey to the 'romance scam' run by the African syndicates who target both men and women.

When asked to comment on the latest arrest made in Cheras and Kajang, Khalid said police are still waiting for the woman to lodge a police report.

"There are actually a lot of 'romance scam' victims out there but they are probably too embarrassed to lodge a police report," he said after receiving a mock cheque worth RM80,000 from DRB-HICOM Berhad, which is sponsoring air conditioners for the mosque in Maktab Polis, Cheras here today.

He urged victims of the "romance scam" to come forward and lodge police reports.

Here is the URL of the article for as long as it is good:
<http://www.thesundaily.my/news/1804082>

The Malaysian who sent in the article prefaced it in part with the following interesting remarks in his email:

"We have many Nigerians posing as students with visas residing in Kuala Lumpur. One way or another I believe that all of these students did not come here to study but to form a network of scamming syndicates to con people from around the world and in particular Malaysians."

9 MAY 2016

From Newsweek (newsweek.com) comes a very interesting and entertaining article brought to our attention by Ultrascan AGI:

The Origins of Nigeria's Notorious 419 Scams

By Stephen Ellis

Nigerian scammers are generally regarded as pioneers in the sending of mass letters, messages and emails seeking to defraud any recipient foolish and greedy enough to fall for their tricks, although all the signs are that the practice has now spread worldwide. Nigerians call scams like these "Four One Nine," so called by reference to Article 419 of the country's criminal code, which concerns fraud.

Yet Nigeria's 419 scammers have a far longer pedigree than most people realise. The first properly documented 419 letter dates from 1920 and was written by one P. Crentsil to a contact in the British colony of the Gold Coast, today's Ghana. Crentsil launched into a long description of the magical powers that were in his possession and that could, on payment of a fee, be used to the benefit of his correspondent. Crentsil signed himself "P. Crentsil, Professor of Wonders."

According to the evidence at hand, "Professor" Crentsil has to be regarded as the first-known exponent of the modern 419 fraud. He seems to have written a number of similar letters, each time offering to provide magical services on payment of a fee. In December 1921, he was charged by the police with three counts under various sections of the criminal code including section 419, the one to which Nigerians make reference when they speak of "Four One Nine." But Crentsil was in luck: the magistrate presiding over his case discharged him with a caution on the first count and acquitted him on the two others for lack of corroborating evidence, as a result of which "he (Crentsil) is now boasting that he got off owing to his 'juju' powers," reported the Chief of Police in Onitsha Province. The same officer stated that he had known Crentsil for some years, during which time the "Professor" "had slipped through the hands of the police so often that I shall soon, myself, begin to believe in his magic powers."

There is no way of knowing how many similar cases may have occurred, but the colonial authorities became sufficiently concerned by the number of letters addressed to Nigerians from outside the country soliciting money for what the British regarded as fraudulent purposes that they started to intercept items of what was called "charlatanic correspondence." The Director of Posts and Telegraphs made clear that this term embraced adverts concerning "medicines of potency, and unfailing healing power, lucky charms, love philtres, magic pens with which examinations can be passed, powders and potions to inspire personal magnetism, remove kinks from hair-or insert them-counteract sterility and ensure football prowess." The Posts and Telegraphs department recorded 9,570 such items in 1947, by which time the amount of money returned to senders was some 1,205 UK pounds.

In the mid-1940s there was a spate of financial scams perpetrated by people known as "Wayo tricksters," some of whom were operating a trick that involved posing as agents of a "New York Currency Note Firm," selling to a gullible victim boxes of blank paper with a promise that this could be turned into banknotes by application of a special chemical.

Behavior of a sort that British officials probably would have classified as charlatanic was sometimes recorded on the part of the relatively few Nigerians who travelled overseas at that time. One of these was one Prince Modupe, who spent years in the United States under a variety of fantastical guises. In 1935 he was in Los Angeles presenting himself as a graduate of Jesus College, Oxford, although Oxford University had no record of him. In March 1947 he appeared on the bill at the San Francisco Opera House under the name His Royal Highness Prince Modupe of Dubrica. Seven months later he was still in San Francisco, now claiming to be the "Crown Prince of Nigeria" and representing himself as a successful businessman who had obtained a variety of commercial contracts. Modupe seems to have been in effect a professional confidence trickster. Nor was he the only Nigerian operating in this field in the United States. Another was Prince Peter Eket Inyang Udo, a businessman who lived in America and Britain for some seventeen years. Eket Inyang Udo attracted the attention of the colonial authorities not only on account of his dubious commercial practices but also because of his political ideas and connections.

Some of Nigeria's new breed of chancers began at a young age. In 1949, the U.S. consul-general in Lagos reported the existence

of one "Prince Bil Morrison," who turned out to be a 14-year old boy who specialized in writing to correspondents in America to solicit funds. The police remarked that this case was just "one more in which generous, but possibly gullible, American citizens have allowed themselves to be taken in by African schoolboys." The consul-general wrote: "These young Nigerians are stated by the police to be excellent psychologists," noting that their practice of writing to people in the United States and Canada for money was "widespread." Frauds by Nigerian students in the United States and Canada in the late 1940s were said to include the offer for sale of diamonds, ivory and other exotic luxuries.

This piece is an extract from the late Stephen Ellis's book:

"This Present Darkness: A History of Nigerian Organized Crime"

The book is published by Hurst in London and by Oxford University Press in New York.

Here is the URL of the article for as long as it is good:

<http://www.newsweek.com/origins-nigerias-notorious-419-scams-456701?rx=us>

419 Coalition note: This article and extracts from it were reprinted in various publications all over the world, including in the Nigerian media. One will note that the **spurious** "Spanish Letter" origin theory for 419 is not mentioned in the above. Interestingly, 419 Coalition has in the past heard from Nigerians who were quite irate that 419ers were thought to be copying anyone else, including those who perpetrated old "Spanish Letter" frauds etc., arguing that Nigerians and Africans were quite capable of coming up with 419 all by themselves without having to copy Anyone :) What actually happened regarding the "Spanish Letter" thing was that an early journalist on 419 wrote an article that said the 419ers were copying the old "Spanish Letter" scams, with no proof whatever for that statement, and it kind of stuck. To repeat, there is no proof whatever that the early 419ers ever copied anyone else's modus operandi. The most likely very distant origin for 419 is probably the traditional "red mercury" scam (a form of "wash-wash" and later "black currency 419"); and of course 419 did not really take off as a major omnipresent criminal enterprise until the 1980's and especially the 1990's.

3 MAY 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes (EFCC) website:

Internet Scam: Fraudster Bags Two Years Imprisonment

A Federal High Court sitting in Warri, Delta State has convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment, Osayemi Dumi. Dumi was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a 4-count charge bordering on money laundering and obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of N26, 200,000 (twenty six million, two hundred thousand naira).

Upon his arraignment, he pleaded not guilty to the 4-count charge, but later changed his plea to guilty. His latest plea changed the course of the trial.

Justice E. A. Obile convicted Dumi and sentenced him to two years imprisonment on the 4-count charge, with an option of N200,000.00 (two hundred thousand naira) fine. He ordered the evidence of the two vehicles confiscated from him upon his arrest to be filed in the registry of the court.

Meanwhile, Dumi's co-accused person, Rose Bawa and her company (Ladocas Integrated Services Limited), who were originally arraigned together, on the same 4-count charge of money laundering and obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of N26, 200,000.00(Twenty- Six

Million, Two Hundred Thousand Naira only), stuck to her "not guilty" plea.

Dumi's ordeal started when he was arrested on March 6, 2015 by operatives of the EFCC, at Neduragbo Close, Ife Ugbeji Road, Warri, Delta State following a tip-off about his suspicious flamboyant lifestyle.

At the time of his arrest, the following items were recovered from him: a 2011 C350 Mercedes Benz car and a Toyota Venza. Dumi who claimed to be a 'Yahoo Boy', confessed to have duped one Stephanie, an American lady, the sum of \$75,000, with which he acquired some of the seized properties.

His co-accused person, Bawa, whose trial continues, was alleged to have benefited from the proceeds of his heist.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/1875-internet-scam-fraudster-bags-two-years-imprisonment>

17 MAR 2016

From Elombah.com a UK based Nigerian news and commentary website:

Court jails teenage scammer 37yrs for duping American \$40m

Justice Lateef Lawal Akapo of a Lagos High Court sitting in Ikeja on Wednesday convicted a 19-year old secondary school leaver, Tobechukwu Igbokwe and sentenced him to 37 years imprisonment for defrauding an American, a sum of \$40million(Forty Million United States Dollars) in an inheritance scam.

The convict was arraigned before the court on a 12- count charge bordering on scam, forgery, conspiracy and obtaining money by false pretences.

Justice Akapo found him guilty on all 12-counts and sentenced him accordingly.

He was sentenced to 7 years on counts 1-8; 8 years on count 9; 7 years on count 10, 8 years on count 11 and 7 years on count 12, making a cumulative of 37 years imprisonment.

The sentence is to run concurrently with effect from October 28, 2013.

The court also ordered Igbokwe to return the \$40 million as a restitution to the victim and forfeit a Toyota Corolla car, which is a proceed of the crime, to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Igbokwe was arraigned on Monday, October 28, 2013 and pleaded not guilty to the 12-count charges pressed against him.

He later changed his plea to "guilty" and was convicted by Justice Akapo accordingly.

Before the conviction, the prosecuting counsel, Kayode Oni tendered various exhibits before the court which were all admitted and marked as such.

However, defence counsel, D. A. Omougbaï prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, since Igbokwe has shown enough remorse for the offences he committed.

Tobechukwu Igbokwe (Alias David Prince) and his accomplice, Ifeanyi Obi were alleged to have duped an American: M. Silva, the sum of \$40 million in an inheritance scam. Silva was made to believe that

Igbokwe and his accomplice had a huge inheritance which they wanted to move to a foreign account for safe-keeping.

The victim was asked to send money to "process" the transfer and in the process, he wired \$40m in several installments through Western Union to Igbokwe.

Igbokwe also confessed that he had duped other foreigners. Some of them are: T. Bedwell, \$6,000 and R. Hunt \$15,000.

Here is the URL of the article, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<http://elombah.com/index.php/reports/6018-court-jails-teenage-scammer-37yrs-for-duping-american-40m>

There is also an undated press release on this on the EFCC website.

419 Coalition note: We sure hope the victims in this case do better on their court ordered restitution than the victim did in the famous Odiawa case - where around \$2 million in restitution was ordered, and a decade or so later the victim has not received one penny to date in restitution.....

7 MAR 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) website. The EFCC still has not resumed putting the posting date on their news releases, but this news item includes dates:

EFCC Arraigns One for Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on March 7th 2016 arraigned one Bolaji Quadri (aka Philip Coffert) before honorable Justice Oluwatoyin Ipaye of the Lagos State High Court on a 6-count charge of forgery and obtaining money under false pretence.

The defendant allegedly duped one Raedeena Collins of the sum of \$1000 by falsely claiming to be on Phillips Coffert.

At the point of his arrest, several fraudulent documents were found in his possession including forged cashier's cheque from international banks in both United States and United Kingdom.

One of the charge reads that "you Bolaji Quadri (a.k.a Philip Coffert) on or about the 5th day of March 2015 in Lagos, within the Ikeja Judicial Division by false pretence and with intent to defraud obtained the sum of \$1000 (One Thousand US Dollars) from one Raedeena Collins by falsely representing to her that you are Philip Coffert which pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offense contrary to section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act No.14 2006".

Bolaji pleaded not guilty when the charge was read to him.

In view of the plea of the defendant, Zainab Etu, the prosecution counsel asked the court for a trial date. However, the defence counsel, Gbenga Osho informed the court that he wished to file a bail application for client and hope same would be heard on the next adjourned date.

Justice Ipaye adjourned the matter to 3rd and 4th May 2016 for the commencement of trial and hearing of bail application. She ordered that the defendant be remanded in prison custody.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/1777-efcc-arraigns-one-for-fraud>

4 MAR 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission (EFCC) website. Since the EFCC has inexplicably recently stopped putting the date of publication on their online press releases, the date above is approximate, though from the article itself one can infer that this was posted up around 29 FEB 2016:

Fraudster Bags 7 Years Jail Term

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on Monday February 29, secured the conviction of one Mfon Obot Essien (alias David Morris, Femi James) at the Lagos State High Court, Igbosere. Justice R. A. Adebisi convicted Essien on all the Six count charge preferred against him by the EFCC and sentenced him accordingly.

The convict was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for attempting to defraud the family of one Shaliseon Warren by claiming that their daughter Shaliseon was kidnapped and the kidnappers were demanding a ransom of \$7,000 USD.

The sentences are to run concurrently, starting from the day of his arrest.

The convict's journey to prison started when the Commission received a petition dated the 29th day of July 2013, from the United States Department of Homeland Security, seeking its assistance to investigate a transnational criminal organisation involved in drug smuggling, money laundering and fraud activities. It stated that a family, whose daughter travelled to Argentina, got a call from her boyfriend that they had both been kidnapped and a ransom of \$7000 was demanded by the kidnappers who wanted the money sent to their associates in Nigeria with the following details "David Morriso,302 Apapa Expressway, Ikeja Lagos.

Investigations revealed there was no kidnap but the lady in question was actually arrested by Argentinean Authorities for attempting to smuggle Cocaine out of Argentina. She claimed that her boyfriend, a Nigeria convinced her to do so. The Homeland Security agents had sought the assistance of Money gram to issue a false funds credit which led to the arrest of the convict by the EFCC when he went to receive the money.

Essien was picked up on the 5th day of September 2013 at the Ikota branch of Access Bank Plc after identifying himself as David Morris.

Upon his arrest incriminating documents were found in his possession, including a forged Drivers License bearing the name James Femi but with his picture.

Further investigation revealed that on July 26, 2013, Essien received the sum of N237,537.68k from one Mark Mentor with another forged Drivers License bearing the name David Morris but with his picture having falsely represented himself to the said Mark Mentor as David Morris.

Upon his arraignment on December 17, 2013, the convict pleaded "not guilty" to all the charges but later changed his plea on November 24, 2015 to amended information.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/1758-fraudster-bags-7-years-jail-term>

4 MAR 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) website. Since the EFCC stupidly has recently for some reason stopped putting the date of publication on their online press releases, the date above is approximate:

EFCC Arrests A Suspected Internet Fraudster

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arrested

one Tonwerigha Oyintonbra Tombrown for allegedly duping an Irish businesswoman, Izabela Glogowska to the tune of Euros 53,000 (equivalent of N11.6 million) in an Internet scam.

Glogowska alleged that Tombrown who posed as a prominent online trader, Michael Freeman, tricked her into sending him Euros 1,000 via Western Union/Money gram as payment for a business deal.

She added that he later pretended to be one Ben Andrews demanding for an additional €10,000 claiming that there was a policy change. The same Andrews advised her to send the money to Tombrown in Nigeria, who ended up diverting the money to a fake account.

Efforts to recover her money proved abortive, hence she petitioned the EFCC.

The suspect would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

Here is the URL of the press release, which includes a photo, for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/1775-efcc-arrests-a-suspected-internet-fraudster>

27 FEB 2016

The Kathmandu Post, Nepal, has published an article on Cybercrime in general, and Cybercrime directed directly against Nepal in particular, by Dipesh Khatiwada. It was sent in to us by Ultrascan AGI. While too long to be posted in its entirety here, we have put up the sections dealing directly with 419 AFF crime, and the URL of the complete article is given at the bottom of this news item:

Into the dark web

With the spike in the number of internet users in Nepal, cybercrimes are also on the rise

In the six months of the current fiscal year there have been as many as 361 reported cybercrimes, with most of these cases centralised in the Kathmandu Valley and in the Central Development Region. Spokesperson of the Nepal Police, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Madhav Joshi informs, "The case hearings on cyber-related issues, so far, are only conducted by the Kathmandu District Court. This may be the cause cyber crime is unrecorded in the mid-west and the far-west." Police investigators confirm that they deal with as many as 20 cases related to cybercrimes on a daily basis. Around 300 victims filed reports with the MPCD during the last fiscal year. There were only 91 such cases reported in 2013-14 (2070-71 BS).

There are examples of other cases of organised cybercrime in Nepal, one of which is the one commonly known as the Nigerian 419 scam. The police reported that at least 38 people were affected by the scam within the last three years, and have arrested 16 people, including one Nigerian and two Pakistani nationals, on charges of the scam where fraudsters send text messages or emails congratulating the recipient on winning a lottery. "If the fraudster receives a response, they demand the recipient deposit money to banks in India. They promise the victims a large sum in prize money if they make a small up-front payment. After receiving this payment, the fraudster simply disappears by switching off their mobile phone, or continues to ask the victim to provide further fees," informs Inspector Ray.

Here is the URL of the complete article for as long as it is good:

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-02-27/into-the-dark-web.html>

23 FEB 2016

Sent in from the International Business Times (UK)

by Ultrascan AGI:

Ginuwine: Pony singer slams Nigerian '419' scammers using him for fraud

By Toyin Owoseje

R'n'b legend Ginuwine has hit out at online scammers after becoming an unwitting accomplice to their schemes. The 45-year-old raised the alarm on social media on Tuesday (23 February) and distanced him from a string of cybercrimes after it emerged that the offenders had been using his name to reach out to unsuspecting people and con then out of their money.

Sharing a screenshot of a fake Facebook account under his real name, Elgin Baylor Lumpkin, the father-of-eight wrote: "I'm being told someone is using my name to trick people into giving money. This is not me!" He added: "It's a Nigerian scam going on so if anyone on any page that has my name ask for money curse they ass out people will do anything for a dollar it's crazy."

While some of the Pony hitmaker's 385K followers empathised with the star, others did not appreciate him painting such a negative picture of the West African nation by describing the criminal act as a 'Nigerian scam'. Following a barrage of complaints, he apologised for his remark and deleted the offending post.

"My apologies to those I offended I wasn't speaking about all Nigerians there's a scam being done on this page of Facebook and it is for a fact someone who is asking for money and giving an address that is in Nigeria it could be anyone tho not necessarily a Nigerian.

He added: "A man can admit when he made a mistake my apologies again blessings. But still if you are on this page and someone ask you for money give them the business lol peace."

Although online fraud occurs all over the world, some of the top scam countries include China, Malaysia, Russia and Nigeria. In 2014, Dutch investigation firm Ultrascan estimated that that Nigeria-based cybercrime is costing around \$9.3 billion (5.5bn UK pounds) globally each year.

Here is the URL of the article for as long as it is good:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/ginuwine-pony-singer-slams-nigerian-419-scammers-using-him-fraud-1545578>

419 Coalition Note: We'd like to mention that if there is an advance fee fraud crime attempted or committed, and that a Nigerian address is given by the criminals, it is indeed 419 since there is a West African, specifically Nigerian in this case, aspect of the crime.

18 FEB 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes (EFCC) website:

EFCC Docks One for Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on February 18, 2016 arraigned one Francis A. Igo before Justice S. K Idrisu of the Federal High Court sitting in Kano on a four-count charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence.

Igo's arrest and subsequent arraignment followed a petition by one Dr. Aliero Shehu Usman of Ministry of Finance, Birnin Kebbi, Kebbi State.

The petitioner alleged that sometime in October, 2012 he got a call from one Engr. Yusuf who claimed to be an employee of Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN, Jalingo, that he had been awarded

a contract to supply some solar kit Model 10a to National Integrated Power Project (NIPP), Abuja.

According to Usman, Igo introduced him to one Professor Williams, who claimed to be the Director, Finance and Supply of NIPP where he was told to register with a certain amount before he could get the supply.

The petitioner alleged that after paying the required amount into the account supplied by the accused, he could still not deliver on his promises.

Igo and his accomplice, who operate as syndicate, were alleged to have in a similar fashion defrauded several unsuspecting victims of their hard earned income.

One of the counts reads:

"That you, Francis A. Igo, Engr Yusuf (at large), Prof Williams (at Large) and Bernand Omale (at Large), sometime in November, 2012 within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court with intent to defraud did obtain the sum of N250,000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand naira only) through the GTBank Plc. Account NO. 0122206505 belonging to Francis A. Igo from Said Abdullahi under the false presence that you work with the National Integrated Power Project and you wanted him to supply some RING to the said project which presence you knew to be false and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (a) of Advance Fee Fraud and other Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act."

The accused person pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to him.

In view of his plea, counsel to EFCC, Salihu Sani asked the court for a date to commence trial and also to remand the accused person in prison custody.

Jusdtice Idrisu ordered the accused person to be remanded in prison custody and adjourned to March 8, 2016 for hearing on the bail application and commencement of trial.

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/1742-efcc-docks-one-for-fraud>

12 FEB 2016

From the Nigerian Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) website:

Five in EFCC Net for Internet Scam

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on February 12, 2016 arrested five suspected fraudsters who specialized in internet scam popularly known as “yahoo yahoo”.

The suspects - Okunmwendia Victor, Wowo Odeworitse David, Isaac Otete, Iyera Emmanuel and Ovanerita Samuel, between the ages of 20 and 26 were rounded up at their different hide-outs during a sting operation.

While Victor was arrested at 19 Owina Street Benin City, Edo State, the other suspects: David, Otete, Emmanuel and Samuel were apprehended at 4, Lucky Street, Osubi, Warri, Delta State.

Some of the items recovered from them include: seven different types of laptops, several smart phones, international passport, various cheque books, flash drives and different types of internet modems.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

Here is the URL of the press release for as long as

it is good:

<https://efccnigeria.org/efcc/index.php/news/1738-five-in-efcc-net-for-internet-scam>

15 JAN 2016

The New York Times Sunday Review had a lengthy article on romance and "sextortion" scams by Kate Murphy, in which she mentions West Africa specifically as a source of such criminal operations. This article was brought to our attention byt Ultrascan AGI.

Here is the URL of the article for as long as it is good:

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/17/sunday-review/in-online-dating-sextortion-and-scams.html?_r=1

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