

Nigeria - [419 Coalition](#) 2025 News on Nigerian Scam / 419 Operations

12 MAR 2025

Courts Jail 32 Internet Fraudsters in Ibadan

Justices Ladiran Akintola, O.S. Adeyemi, K.B. Olawoyin, G.A. Sunmonu of the Oyo State High Court and Justice Nkeonye Maha of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ibadan, Oyo State, have convicted and sentenced thirty-two persons to prison for fraud.

They were prosecuted by the Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on separate one-count charges bordering on impersonation, internet-related offences.

The convicts are: Kolade Olayinka Akinlosotu, Adetoro Kolawole Jelili, Olatunji Opeyemi Matthew, Ehifowoju Kehinde Emmanuel, Basit Akorede Mustapha, Banjoko Olamide Oriyomi, Badmus Quazeem Damilola, Ikumapayi Olalekan Babajide, Muili Olamilekan Sodiq, Odususi Yemi Michael, Ashiru Adebola Ibrahim, Ayomide Olamide Ogidan, Fatusin Michael Abayomi, Omotosho Oluwapelumi James, Adewale Ibikunle Abdullahi, Ismail Ibrahim Friday, Adedara Ademola Ayobami and Ajayi Elijah Oladimeji.

Others are: Oladele Salam, Olasunkanmi Kadril Yakub, Ayomide Hassan Omolade, Ojo Oluwanifemi Emmanuel, Temitope Gbenga Agbaminoja, Oyewale Timileyin Ayodeji, Olajide Lekan Peter, Obaoye Samuel Olaoluwa, Ajayi Okiki Michael, Mustapha Quadri Ayinde, Oluwatimilehin Noah Ojo, Oluwajana Segun Joseph, Oluwashina Gbenga Adeniyi and Kolawole Ojukotimi Adebessin.

The charge against Akinlosotu reads: "That you, Kolade Olayinka Akinlosotu sometime in May, 2023 at Ibadan, Oyo State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud one Orlando Mejia, did falsely represent yourself as one Amanda Smith, a woman from Texas, United States of America through Facebook with account name Amanda Smith, thereby committed an offence of impersonation, contrary to Section 484 of the Criminal Code Cap 38, Laws of Oyo State, 2000."

They all pleaded "guilty" when the charges were read to them, upon which prosecution counsel, Modupe Akinkoye, Oluwatoyin Owodunni, Chidi Okoli, Sanusi Galadanchi, Lanre Suleiman, Mabas Mabur, Shamsuddeen Bashir, David Olubode and A.M. Aliyu prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Consequently, Justice Olawoyin convicted and sentenced Peter to two years imprisonment or to pay N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, and Ayodeji to one year imprisonment or to pay N250, 000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) fine, while Justice Maha convicted and sentenced Abayomi to one year imprisonment or to pay N250, 000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) fine.

Justice Adeyemi on her part, convicted and sentenced Oriyomi and Ibrahim to one year imprisonment each without option of fine. Ayobami, Abdullahi and Ayinde bagged six months community service each, without an option of fine. She convicted and sentenced Ojo, Mustapha and Adebessin to three months community service each without option of fine.

Justice Akintola convicted and slammed Oladimeji, Joseph and Olaoluwa with one year jail term each or to pay a fine of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira, N40, 000.00 (Forty Thousand Naira) and N150, 000. 00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) respectively.

He slammed Adeniyi with six months jail term or to pay N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) fine, while Jelili bagged six months community service or to pay N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) fine. Michael and Olamide got three months jail term each or to pay N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira) fine, each.

Also convicted and sentenced by Justice Akintola were Kehinde Emmanuel, Babajide, Sodiq, James, Salam, Yakub, Omolade, Oluwanifemi Emmanuel, Agbaminoja, Okiki Michael and Friday who bagged three months of community service each or to pay N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira), N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira), N75, 000.00 (Seventy-five Thousand Naira), N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira), N75, 000.00 (Seventy-five Thousand Naira), N40, 000.00 (Forty Thousand Naira), N50, 000.00

(Fifty Thousand Naira), N40, 000.00 (Forty Thousand Naira), N40, 000.00 (Forty Thousand Naira), N30, 000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira) and N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira) respectively.

Furthermore, Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Matthew and Damilola to a fine of N30, 000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira) and N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira) respectively.

Justice Sunmonu convicted and sentenced Akinlosotu to three months community service without an option of fine.

Besides their sentences, all the convicts forfeited items recovered from them to the federal government. These include money, phones and laptop computers. Others are a green-coloured Toyota Camry 2205 model car with registration number: EPE – 232 – GU recovered from Oriyomi, a wine-coloured Toyota Camry vehicle with registration number: MUS – 84 – GU recovered from Ibrahim, a red-coloured Toyota Corolla car with chassis number: 2T1BU4EE3AC495391, recovered from Olaoluwa, a black-coloured Toyota Camry car with registration number: MUS – 683 – HJ, recovered from Adeniyi and a golden-coloured Toyota Camry vehicle with chassis number: 411BE46KX8U203665 recovered from Abdullahi.

In addition, the court ordered that Ayobami pay the sum of N2.5million (Two Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) as restitution to his victim.

The press release contains photos of some of the 419ers:

[courts-jail-32-internet-fraudsters-in-ibadan](#)

11 MAR 2025

U.S Mission Nigeria Reaffirms Robust Relationship with EFCC

The United States Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency, Richard M. Mills Jr. has reaffirmed that the robust working relationship between the United States government and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, would continue in order to achieve significant success in the fight against economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption.

He stated this in Abuja on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 when he led a delegation of the US Mission in Nigeria on a familiarization visit to the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede at the Commission's corporate headquarters.

“I'm very grateful for the relationship we have both through our legal attache and with these other offices here. The US government was strongly supportive of the creation of the EFCC when it was established and our relationship has continued since then. I'm here today to learn a little bit about what the Chairman's priorities are for the EFCC moving forward; what you see as the key trends in financial crimes that you're addressing and how the U.S. government and U.S. Mission can assist you, either with information sharing or sharing of expertise, closer cooperation in specific cases”, he said.

Explaining further, Mills pointed out that, “part of the reason we're so interested in these issues is because they affect both our countries and they affect what we're both trying to do, which is to create a secure, prosperous Nigeria and build our economies, both the US and the Nigerians”.

He stated strongly that the work of the EFCC in the areas of anti-corruption, counter-terrorism and money laundering were of priority to the US government and the US Mission in Nigeria. “This office is at the epicenter of the work being done to counter corruption, financial terrorism, counter-terrorism, money laundering. And that is a high priority for the US Government and for this mission. And as you can see, it involves several offices at the US Mission. Our economic team follows these issues closely, especially anti money laundering, counterterrorism, financing, and has engaged with members of your staff on that issue”, he said.

Olukoyede, who was delighted with the visit, took the delegation on a brief tour of the mandate of the EFCC. “In the EFCC, our mandate is to fight economic and financial crimes not only to prevent them. We have a mandate to prevent, to investigate and where one has occurred to also prosecute and by extension we also recover assets in the course of our

work, which are one way or the other subject to the directive of the Federal Executive Council, led by the President to manage them.

While recognizing that Nigeria over the years has had a beneficial relationship with the US government and its agencies in EFCC's efforts to sanitize the country's financial space, Olukoyede looked forward to amplified relationship with the US government and the US Mission in Nigeria for improved outcomes in the fight against corruption and financial crimes.

"The relationship between the United States of America and Nigeria in relation to the fight against financial crimes dates way back and has been one of very strong synergy and mutually beneficial collaboration. Nigeria and America have been having mutual cooperation particularly in the area of the fight against financial crimes. And this we hope to build on, to strengthen and to take to the next level", he said.

He sued for enhanced support and collaboration stressing that, "the support is needed especially in the areas of technology, intelligence gathering and sharing and human capital development. We recognize the fact that most of the work we do is intelligence-driven. And when we talk of intelligence, we are talking of technology. So we need your support in that area. And also need it in capacity building, collaboration, information and intelligence sharing which is very important. And we are requesting that America needs to reciprocate by attending to our requests on time because we notice that maybe you consider your laws and all of that. We will just wish you could fast track your response to some of our requests. We would really appreciate it if you can improve on that during your tenure," he said.

Speaking further, the EFCC boss disclosed some of his recent efforts at curbing visa fraud that pose an endless challenge to foreign missions in the country. "Just last year, I established the Visa Application and Immigration Fraud Section in EFCC and we have its desks all across our zonal offices to deal with issues that have to do with visa racketeering and immigration fraud. It is a dedicated desk that works 48 hours. And we'll be having good results. So we also need your support in that area in the exchange of information and intelligence with us and in technology and gadgets you can support us with. The Nigeria government is willing to collaborate more with the government of the United States to work more for the mutual interests of both countries", he said

The press release contains photos:

[u-s-mission-nigeria-reaffirms-robust-relationship-with-efcc](#)

10 MAR 2025

Your Voices Matter in Tackling Scourge of Internet Fraud- EFCC Charges Students

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, has tasked students across the country to be loud in their opposition to any form of internet fraud, stressing that their voices matter in tackling the menace

He made the appeal on Monday, March 10, 2025, during a sensitization and re-engagement visit to Doveland International School, Abuja. The event, held at the school's assembly hall, was aimed at enlightening students about the dangers of internet fraud and corruption.

Representing the Chairman at the event, Head of the Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the EFCC, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACEII Aisha Mohammed reiterated the Commission's commitment to engaging the youth in the fight against corruption, stressing that talking loudly against corruption could positively cause a change of attitude by fraudsters and even the older generation.

"The future belongs to you. That's why we are here, urging you to join this fight and secure a better future. The older generations are phasing out, and without proper guidance, the mess will keep recycling. Your voices matter. You matter. Please join us in this crusade and make Nigeria a better place for us all. Shun Yahoo Yahoo, exam malpractice, bullying, drugs, and other social vices," she said.

Mr. Chris Oluka, Head of the Creative Communications Unit of the EFCC, urged the students to be good ambassadors of Nigeria and play active roles in rebuilding the nation's reputation. He

emphasized that the havoc being wreaked by internet fraudsters on the country's image requires proactive efforts, particularly from the youth, to change the negative narrative.

"We are here today to let you know that you can be good ambassadors, foot soldiers, and take the front seat in this crusade to champion the fight against other social vices," he said.

He encouraged the students to live upright lives and even educate their parents on the negative effects of corruption and how it hampers national development. Recalling his school days, Olukoyede noted that in his time, public school students enjoyed free education, including bursaries, uniforms, books, and food.

"Why don't we have those things now? It's because of corruption. Corruption is the reason we have bad roads, dilapidated hospitals and schools, lack of potable drinking water, unstable power supply, brain drain, poor working environments, and inadequate educational facilities. I'm saying enough is enough; let's drive this fight together now and safeguard your future," he said.

In her presentation, Eniola Kayode from the Cybercrime Section of the EFCC warned the students about the dangers of engaging with strangers online. She explained that doing so could make them easy targets for sextortion and other cybercrimes.

Kayode also cautioned against clicking on suspicious links sent to their devices, as hackers could easily gain access to sensitive information and then attempt to blackmail them. To avoid such threats, she advised the students not to keep nude pictures on their phones.

"When hackers gain access to your devices, they can start holding you to ransom. When this happens, report immediately to the EFCC, the police, your parents, or a trusted adult and ignore the threats from criminals," she said.

The event also featured a quiz competition where students, Nifemi Odeseye and Yosola Ogunsola, emerged as winners. They were rewarded with brand-new mobile phones and were also appointed as EFCC Ambassadors to further spread the anti-corruption message among their peers.

The EFCC's visit to Doveland International School is part of its ongoing effort to engage young Nigerians and promote integrity, discipline, and patriotism in the fight against corruption.

[your-voices-matter-in-tackling-scourge-of-internet-fraud-efcc-charges-students](#)

10 MAR 2025

EFCC Arrests 14 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Jos

The Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC have arrested fourteen suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested in K-Vom and Rayfield areas in Jos, Plateau State on Saturday March 8, 2025 following credible intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet-related activities.

Items recovered from them include five laptops, 13 phones and two power banks.

The suspects will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

[efcc-arrests-14-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-jos](#)

[6 MAR 2025](#)

Court Jails 21 Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

[The Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has secured the conviction and sentence of 21 internet fraudsters before Justices A.N. Erhabor and W. I. Aziegbemhin of Edo State High Courts, sitting in Benin City.](#)

[The convicts are: Eimuen Nathaniel, Ighagbon Anderson Andy, Precious Aigbokhai,](#)

[Divine Ebosetale Okhitie, Ekpekurede Valour, Akuson Sunday, Oshoikpor Joshua, Onumegu Chukwuebuka Emmanuel, Sylvester Oseokoedion, Osifor Kenneth, Abraham Eromosele, Aliu Sanusi Aliu.](#)

[Others are: Donald Emuen, Oseghale Paris, Amavu Paul, Godsent Omokhoa, Omere Osabvohien Love, Stephen Edetalen Obhanoghor, Segun Nelson Owoyele, Emmanuel Essence and Oriarewoh Divine Eronmonsele](#)

[They were prosecuted on a separate one-count charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents.](#)

[The charge against Eimuen Nathaniel reads: "That you Nathaniel \(m\) on or about the 14th of February, 2025 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession, documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 \(b\) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1\(3\) of the same Act."](#)

[All the defendants pleaded "guilty" to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, F.A Jirbo, K Y. Bello, Isa K. Agwai, Faisal Ibrahim, Al-Amin Ibrahim Abdul, Bala-Ribah and Salihu Ahmed to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly, while counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.](#)

[Justice Erhabor convicted and sentenced Love, Valour, Sunday, Oriarewoh Eromosele, Okoedion, Omokhoa and Kenneth to two years imprisonment, each or to pay N200, 000 \(Two Hundred Thousand Naira\) fine respectively, while he slammed Obhanoghor, Okhitie and Paul with three years imprisonment each or to pay N200,000 \(Two Hundred Thousand Naira\) fine, respectively.](#)

[Justice W.I. Aziegbemhin convicted and sentenced Owoyele and Esence to two years imprisonment each or to pay N300, 000 \(Three Hundred Thousand Naira\) and N600, 000 \(Six Hundred Thousand Naira\) fine, respectively. He slammed Andy, Aigbokhai, Joshua and Emmanuel to two years imprisonment, each or to pay N200,000 \(Two Hundred Thousand Naira\) fine respectively, while Nathaniel, Abraham Eromonsele, Aliu and Paris bagged two years imprisonment or to pay N400,000 \(Four Hundred Thousand Naira\) fine, while Emuen bagged three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N600,000 \(Six Hundred Thousand Naira\).](#)

[In addition to their sentences, all the convicts forfeited their phones, computers and money, found in their respective bank accounts to the federal government of Nigeria and undertook in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.](#)

[The convicts' journey to the correctional centre began with their arrest in a sting operation by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC following intelligence that linked them to fraudulent internet activities.](#)

[The press release contains photos of some of the 419ers:](#)

[court-jails-21-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

6 MAR 2025

EFCC Arraigns Three for N74m Fraud in Maiduguri

The Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 arraigned three defendants before Justice K. Dagat of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri.

They are; Vincent Markus (a.k.a kaylujjaybaby), Ahmed Aliyu Maiizawaka alongside his company Maizawaka De-Crawler Nigeria Limited and Enoch Adebayo Richard.

The defendants were arraigned on separate count charges bordering on money laundering, impersonation, obtaining money by false pretences and internet related offences to an aggregate sum of N74,636,943 (Seventy Four Million, Six Hundred and Thirty Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty Three Naira only)

The charge against Marcus read:

“That you, Vincent Markus (a.k.a kayluvjaybaby) ‘M’ on or about 11th day of July, 2024 at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did directly take possession of the aggregate sum of N 27,636,943.62 (Twenty Seven Million Six Hundred and Thirty Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty Three Naira, Two Kobo) into your Kuda Microfinance Bank Limited account with account number 2014444920, Vincent Markus being the value for crypto currency, cash apps, pampay and gift cards which sum you knew or reasonably ought to have known is proceeds of your fraud or form part of proceeds of your unlawful act to falsely representing yourself to unsuspecting foreign nationals amongst who are Jayj77 with tiktok account alwayzjj@yahoo.com, Zahra Khan (aka Reel Gems @screensages), Megan Hoffman @meagan0060, Marisol Bruce, Edwin Amilar Lobo Medina e.t.c a United States of American Citizens through electronic messages on Tiktok account, @kayluvjaybbaby and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 18(2) (d) of the Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act”

The charge against Maiizawaka read:

“That you, Ahmed Aliyu Maiizawaka, being the CEO and alter ego of Maizawaka De-Crawler Nigeria Limited and Maizawaka De-Crawler Nigeria Limited, a company registered in Nigeria sometime in February 2019, at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did directly converted the aggregate sum of N9,000,000.00 (Nine Million Naira) which you ought to have known that it forms part of proceed of an unlawful act to wit: obtaining under false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 18(2) (b) of the Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022 and punishable under section 18(3) of the same Act”

While the charge against Richard read:

“That you, Enoch Adebayo Richard between 2022 and 2024 at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did directly take possession of United States of American Dollars denominated cash app and gift coins worth about \$40 (Forty United States of American Dollars) from foreign nationals like Victor Adrian Brnard, Stephanie Scotts, Meldda Sana Jane amongst others which you upon conversion to naira amounted to an aggregate sum of N 38,000,000.00 (Thirty Eight Million Naira) only paid into your Opay, Microfinance Bank number 9015469104, Enoch Adebayo Richard, being the naira equivalent value for the cash app and gift coins which you knew or reasonably ought to have known is proceeds of your fraud or form part of proceeds of your fraud or form part of proceeds of an unlawful act and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2) (d) of the Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act.”

The defendants pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them. Thereafter, prosecution counsel Faruku Muhammad prayed for a trial date and the remand of the defendants in a Correctional Centre.

Justice Dagat thereafter adjourned till May, 14, 12 and 24, 2025 for the commencement of trial and remanded the defendants in a Correctional Centre.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-three-for-n74m-fraud-in-maiduguri](#)

4 MAR 2025

EFCC, France to Collaborate on Asset Tracking and Cybersecurity Training

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC and the French government have expressed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in the areas of

asset tracking, cybercrime investigation, and security training.

This disclosure was made in Abuja on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 when Lieutenant General Regis Colombet, Director of Security and Defence Cooperation at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, paid a Courtesy visit to the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede at the Commission's corporate headquarters.

Colombet highlighted France's extensive collaboration across various security domains, particularly in the establishment of specialized academic and training centres. He cited the Cyber School in Dakar, Senegal, where training on cyber investigations, ransomware threats and criminal investigations related to asset tracking, are taking place. Additionally, he mentioned an Academy in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, dedicated to counterterrorism training alongside several other academic and security training.

"In our cooperation, we prioritize developing academic centres and training hubs, particularly in areas such as cyber investigations and security threats. We provide training opportunities, including specialized courses in France, to enhance expertise in security and defence. Since crime has no borders, international collaboration is essential, and the EFCC's role in combating financial and cybercrimes is crucial to our collective security efforts", he said.

He emphasized that the visit was a follow up to a strategic meeting held in December 2024, aimed at reinforcing partnerships and identifying ways to implement more effective cooperation between Nigeria and France. He pointed out that France's security collaboration extended beyond military cooperation to include cyber security, home affairs, civil defence, and broader security concerns.

Responding, Olukoyede, welcomed the collaboration, noting the longstanding relationship between Nigeria and France in tackling crime. He acknowledged the necessity of working together to prevent and investigate cybercrimes, money laundering, and other transnational financial offences.

"Nigeria and France have a long history of collaboration in crime prevention and investigation. We have successfully worked together in asset tracing, and we are committed to strengthening that relationship further. Given the borderless nature of financial and cybercrimes, international cooperation is crucial in curbing these offenses."

The EFCC's boss drew attention to a recent breakthrough in dismantling an international criminal syndicate operating across Europe and Asia, with plans to establish a foothold in Nigeria. He disclosed that some of the syndicate's victims included individuals in France, emphasizing the importance of sustained collaboration with international partners to prevent such crimes from taking root.

"If we work together, we can significantly reduce the chances of these criminals finding safe havens anywhere in the world. Our primary responsibility is to ensure that these international syndicates do not succeed in perpetrating their crimes. This will help maintain global security, prevent civil unrest, and curb related offenses such as arms trafficking and terrorism, which are often linked to financial crimes."

The EFCC chairman reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to working closely with the French embassy and its security attaché in Nigeria. He also expressed gratitude about the capacity development initiatives offered by France, emphasizing the importance of technological advancements in modern crime-fighting efforts.

"We appreciate the opportunities for training and capacity building. Crime detection and investigation in Nigeria differ significantly from Europe. While European law enforcement can access digital records at the push of a button, our investigations require extensive fieldwork. By combining our practical expertise with France's advanced technological tools, we can create a more effective crime fighting strategy", he said.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-france-to-collaborate-on-asset-tracking-and-cybersecurity-training](#)

4 MAR 2025

Abuja Court Jails Two Internet Fraudsters

Justice M.Y. Halilu of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court Maitama, has convicted and sentenced two suspected internet fraudsters, Godwin Christopher and Temitope Ature Mario to one year imprisonment each.

They were jailed on Friday, February 28, 2025 after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on internet fraud.

Christopher's charge reads, 'That you Godwin Christopher sometime in 2024 at Abuja within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court attempted to commit the offence of cheating by personation when you created a fake Facebook account with the profile name Annita Scott and pretended to be an American from Atlanta, Georgia which you were not and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 95 and punishable under Section 324 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation, 2004''

Mario's charge reads, 'That you Temitope Ature Mario sometime in 2024 at Abuja within the jurisdiction of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory attempted to cheat by personation when you represented yourself on Facebook profile page as Karlee Jean, a citizen of the United States of America which you know to be false and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 95 when you read in conjunction with Section 321 of the Penal Code Laws (Laws of the Federation, Abuja) 1900 and punishable under Section 324 of the same law'.

They both pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them.

Based on their pleas, Prosecution counsel, S. N .Roberts prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Halilu thereafter convicted and sentenced both Christopher and Mario to a one year imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each. He also ordered that their phones be forfeited to the Federal Government.

Justice Halilu sentenced both Godwin and Ature to a one year prison term or pay a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each. He also ordered that their phone be forfeited to the Federal Government.

The two convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet fraud. They were prosecuted and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

[abuja-court-jails-two-internet-fraudsters](#)

4 MAR 2025

EFCC Arrests Nine Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abuja

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested nine suspected internet fraudsters in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

They were arrested on Tuesday, March 4 2025 at Sunnyville Estate in Lokogoma and Open Heaven Estate in Dawaki areas of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

Items recovered from them include four high-end cars, laptop computers, iPads and phones.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

4 MAR 2025

Chinese Working Group to Collaborate with EFCC in Tackling Cybercrime

Worried by the rising tide of Chinese involvement in financial crimes in Nigeria, the Ambassador of People's Republic China to Nigeria, His Excellency, Yu Dunhai has broached the possibility of collaboration between a Chinese working group with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC in tackling cybercrime.

Dunhai mooted the proposal in Abuja on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 when he led a delegation of Chinese Embassy officials on a visit to the Executive Chairman of EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede at the Commission's corporate headquarters.

“The Chinese government is ready to send out a working group to come here to Nigeria to work with your law enforcement officers to have the evidence collection, the fraud tracing, and to find evidence and bring those criminals to justice,” he said.

He explained that anti-corruption issues are always priorities both for China and Nigeria, maintaining that law enforcement has been an integral part of bilateral relations between the two countries. “We understand that over the past couple of months, the EFCC uncovered quite some cybercrime and also telecom frauds which involved some Chinese. As Chinese Ambassador, I feel very much regret for that. But as a country that has a big population, there are always some bad apples. But what I can assure you is that we have zero tolerance for this kind of crime. The Chinese government has always been committed to countering cyber crime and telecom frauds”, he said.

Dunhai disclosed that every Chinese overseas has been instructed to abide by the rules and regulations of their host countries by following all their procedures. Explaining further, he stated that, “according to our intelligence and information we see that there is a trend by criminals to move from other countries to Nigeria. That's why it resulted in some of the arrests in the past few months. But I can assure you from the embassy side that we would like to work with you. And this is also the attitude of the Chinese government”.

He condemned the involvement of his compatriots in criminalities in Nigeria but sued for the respect of the rights of those arrested. “As the Chinese Ambassador, I would also request that the legitimate right of the Chinese citizens, even if they committed a crime, should be well protected and have been assured many times by your colleagues that their legitimate rights are well protected. And I'm thankful for that”, he said.

In his response, Olukoyede expressed delight at the visit and the proposals, noting that mutual respect and benefit have been the bedrock of Nigeria-China relationship. “The relationship between China and Nigeria has been of mutual benefit and respect. We have so much to benefit from each other. And it is my desire that we build on that existing relationship and strengthen it. A number of times we have had cause to receive your police attache and your other officers here in our office and believe we've been having a very good working relationship,” he said.

Olukoyede thanked Chinese authorities for their support to the EFCC and sued for heightening of the relationship. “We're going to come up with a memorandum of understanding, law enforcement to law enforcement, so that it will ease the process of exchange and intelligence. Information and intelligence exchange will be good for both countries. I want to thank you for that. Also the issue of capacity development which you have been supporting. I also thank you for the support. And just like you said, more will be coming. We appreciate that. We can also transfer our knowledge to them because there are things about our system that they don't know which we would need to put them through in the interest of the two countries. Security is very key to economic development and that's why both countries will do everything possible to ensure that we prevent crime from happening,” he said.

In relation to the scores of Chinese undergoing EFCC's criminal prosecution, Olukoyede assured the delegation of the Commission's tradition of adherence to global best practices and respect for human dignity in the conduct of its affairs. “The investigation we carried out in Lagos involved quite a number of Chinese with other nationals. We discovered that some of them didn't come directly from China. They came from other South Asian countries. That was why I directed

on the day we carried out the arrest that we should write to your Embassy.

“Rest assured of due process. We follow the rule of law in whatever we do. As a matter of fact, while we're preparing for prosecution, they were giving your people Chinese food. They were eating Chinese food. That is to show you how we respect fundamental human rights and due process. Rest assured that we'll continue to collaborate with you. We thank you for your support because you were able to confirm some of their identities for us. If our citizens do anything wrong in your country, we should be able to help you to fight that crime. I believe this is how countries should work together,” he said.

The press release contains a photo:

[chinese-working-group-to-collaborate-with-efcc-in-tackling-cybercrime](#)

3 MAR 2025

Two Internet Fraudsters Bag Jail Terms in Maiduguri

Justice K Dagat of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri, Borno State, on Monday, March 3, 2025 convicted and sentenced Chimdi Godson Izuogu and Chidera Precious Izuogu to various jail terms.

They were prosecuted by the Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on two separate count charges bordering on internet-related offences, money laundering and impersonation to an aggregate sum of N8,207,479.00(Eight Million, Two Hundred and Seven Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy Nine Naira)

The charges read:

“That you, Chimdi Godson Izuogu between 2022 and 2023 at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did directly take possession of the aggregate sum of N 4,622,571.00 only into your Kuda Microfinance Bank Limited, account number 2024535085 and Opay with N389,852, account number 8141817415 account name Chimdi Godson Izuogu totaling N5,012,422 being the value for the United States of American Dollars and Euro denominated cash apps, pampay and gift cards that you fraudulently received which you knew or reasonably ought to have known is proceeds of your fraud or form part of proceeds of your unlawful act and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2) (d) of the Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act.”

“That you, Chidera Precious Izuogu between 2022 and 2023 at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did directly take possession of the aggregate sum of N 3,195,057.59(Three Million One Hundred and Ninety Five Thousand, Five Seven Naira and Fifty Nine Kobo) only into your UBA account number 2152438098, Chidera Precious Izuogu being the naira equivalent of \$2,508.00 and €1,103,028.85(Euros), the value for the United States of American Dollars and Euros denominated cash apps, pampay and gift cards that you fraudulently received which you knew or reasonably ought to have known is proceeds of your fraud or form part of proceeds of your unlawful act and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2) (d) of the Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act.”

The defendants pleaded guilty to their separate charges when they were read to them, upon which prosecution counsel, S.O Saka prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Dagat thereafter convicted and sentenced them to four years imprisonment on each count with the option of N100,000.00 fines as well.

He further ordered the forfeiture of iPhone 14 pro max, a blue Techno mobile phone, HP laptop, and the sum of N2,000,000.00 (Two Million Naira only) as well as N1, 455,057.59 (One Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Five Thousand, Fifty Seven Naira, Fifty Nine Kobo) and iPhone 13 pro max.

Other items forfeited to the government include iPhone 11 pro max and the sum of \$100(One Hundred United States of American Dollars)

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began when they were arrested for defrauding foreign nationals through fake social media handles. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[two-internet-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-maiduguri](#)

3 MAR 2025

EFCC Arrests 21 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday, February 28, 2025 arrested 21 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations within Benin City, Edo State.

The suspects were arrested based on credible intelligence on their alleged involvement in internet- related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 13 exotic cars, laptops and phones

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

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-21-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

2 MAR 2025

EFCC Arrests 11 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Niger

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Kaduna Zonal Directorate, on Thursday, February 27, 2025 arrested 11 suspected internet fraudsters.

?They were arrested in broad daylight at White Hotel, Chanchangi Local Government Area in Niger state following credible intelligence about their suspected involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

?Items recovered from them include two vehicles and 13 phones of different brands.

The Commission's operatives carried out the arrest professionally with no motive or tinge of abduction.

The suspects will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-11-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-niger](#)

27 FEB 2025

EFCC Arrests 19 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, February 27, 2025 arrested 19 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations in Benin City, Edo State.

Their arrest followed credible intelligence linking them to fraudulent internet activities. Items recovered from them include seven exotic cars, laptop computers and phones.

They have made useful statements and will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-19-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

26 FEB 2025

Organized Foreign Fraud Syndicates Establishing Cells in Nigerian Cities- Olukoyede

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has alerted Nigerians that organized foreign fraud syndicates are establishing cells in Nigerian cities and recruiting young Nigerians into serious organized cybercrimes, including cryptocurrency fraud.

He made the disclosure in Abuja on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 while receiving participants of the Executive Intelligence Management Course, EIMC 18 of the National Institute for Security Studies, NISS, led by the Director of Studies, Hyginus Ngele to the Commission. Olukoyede expressed surprise on how bandits and insurgents are able to sustain their activities over the years, stressing that the flow of small arms and light weapons across our borders and the involvement of non-state actors in the illegal exploitation of minerals in parts of the country all compound the threats in the security landscape.

“Another dimension that is not given attention is the discovery, recently, that organized foreign fraud syndicates are establishing cells in Nigerian cities and recruiting young Nigerians into serious organized cybercrimes, including cryptocurrency fraud,” he said. Speaking further, he stated that by virtue of EFCC’s recent discovery “we are beginning to see the likelihood, the propensity that a lot of these people are into illegal importation of arms into the country using cryptocurrency as means of payment. And this is an area that must interest all of us”

“In the special operations we carried out in Lagos recently, we arrested 194 foreigners in the heart of Victoria Island. One hundred and ninety-four of them, Chinese, Filipinos, Eastern Europeans, Tunisians and the like in one building at a time. You can imagine what these guys are doing, 194 of them. Some of them don't even have valid visas and most of the financial activities they carried out they did through cryptocurrency”

“Another thing that we discovered is that some of the foreigners we arrested were already ex-convicts in their countries. Some of them have been convicted and escaped from their countries and found safe haven in Africa, not only Nigeria. We discovered that they are also developing cells in some other African countries by virtue of the investigation we are carrying out,” he said.

The EFCC’s boss called for spirited efforts at both national and continental levels to combat the menace of internet fraudsters, stressing that the money laundering and national security dimension of the presence of foreign organized crime groups demand close scrutiny. “All security, intelligence and law enforcement organisations in Nigeria and indeed Africa, must close ranks in dealing with this challenge,” he said.

Olukoyede decried the fact that Nigeria, for nearly two decades, has been besieged by all manners of security challenges ranging from insurgency, banditry, kidnapping for ransom and farmer/herder clashes, which he partly blamed on activities of non-state actors. Specifically, he noted that the role of non-state actors in stoking the embers of security and corruption challenges has not been fully interrogated.

“At the level of the EFCC, we have always been suspicious of the activities of non-state actors in the areas where we are challenged security-wise. In the Northeast for instance,

the activities of local and international NGOs have been under focus. This was a major impetus for the decision to mandate their registration with SCUML, Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, a department in EFCC, and a clear directive to notify the Commission on cash movements within the region,” he said.

Earlier in his speech, NISS Commandant, Joseph Obule Odama who spoke through Ngele praised Olukoyede’s leadership of the EFCC for the Commission’s “remarkable achievements in combating corruption, money laundering, and other financial crimes,” noting that the achievements “have not only strengthened Nigeria’s integrity but have also served as a model for other nations in Africa and beyond.” He further noted that the EFCC, under Olukoyede, has been at the forefront of investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, including those involving non-state actors.

“Your Commission’s exploratory activities have uncovered the intricate networks through which some NGOs and other entities channel funds to support hostile non-state actors, thereby fueling instability in various parts of the country and the African Continent. “We recognize the critical role the EFCC plays in disrupting these networks and ensuring accountability. In light of this, we are particularly interested in hearing your insights on how your Commission navigates the complexities of investigating and prosecuting cases involving non-state actors”

“We also seek your contributions on how Nigeria and other African nations can strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to address the challenges posed by these actors while promoting transparency and accountability in their operations”.

Members of the NISS EIMC 18, comprised 74 senior officers, drawn from Nigeria’s intelligence community, the military, law enforcement agencies, including the EFCC, strategic government ministries, and representatives from the federal and state governments and international participants from Ghana, Somalia, Rwanda, and The Gambia. The theme for EIMC18 is "Non-state Actors in Security Management: Issues, Challenges, and Prospects for Peace and Development in Africa," which according to Ngele “was carefully selected in recognition of the growing influence of non-state actors in shaping the security landscape across the continent.”

Part of the highlights of the visit featured an enlightenment and question and answers session, moderated by the Director of EFCC’s Public Affairs Department, Commander of the EFCC, CE Wilson Uwujaren. Director of SCUML, Commander of the EFCC, CE Daniel Isei, Director Special Duties, Office of the Executive Chairman, CE Friday Ebelo and Director Legal and Prosecution, CE Sylvanus Tahir, SAN, offered insights on what the EFCC has done in strengthening the anti-corruption engagements through its diverse activities.

The press release contain photos:

[organized-foreign-fraud-syndicates-establishing-cells-in-nigerian-cities-olukoyede](#)

419 Coalition Comment: On 419 matters, we feel the assertion "that organized foreign fraud syndicates are establishing cells in Nigerian cities" is quite overblown. In terms of 419 (Joint West African Fee Fraud) operations, we continue to assert the vast majority of 419ers and members of 419 syndicates are Nigerian nationals, and that the home offices of most expatriate 419 cells worldwide remain in Nigeria. We have recently posted several commentaries on this issue in this news section of late, simply scroll down to find and read them please. Bottom line for us is that the foreigners 419ing in Nigeria are largely not Ogas, or members of foreign syndicates, but are skilled workers imported by Local 419 syndicates to expand their targeted markets. Our view is also that local 419 syndicates would never allow foreign 419 syndicates to function on their "Turf" in Nigeria for very long. See our commentaries on these matters following other recently posted articles on these issues, scroll down.

26 FEB 2025

Rain of Encomiums as EFCC Director, Mahmud Bello Bows Out of Service

The staff of Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Monday, February 24, 2025 heaped encomiums on the Zonal Director, Mahmud Shuaib Bello, Commander of EFCC, as they bade him farewell in an elaborate sendoff party, organized in his honour, having retired meritoriously from the service of the

Commission.

Speaking at the event, organized at the office premises in Enugu, Deputy Commander of the EFCC, and the Directorate's Head of Legal and Prosecution Department, DCE Onjefu Obe, described Bello as epitome of gentility, noting that saying goodbye to a leader who passionately served the nation without blemish was always difficult.

"Here we are with one of the best persons you can meet in the world, full of love and leaving us at this moment. He is an epitome of gentility. He is a man who has served the Commission for more than twenty years and has passionately served our dear nation without blemish. In his short stay with us as Zonal Director, he made tremendous achievements and we will greatly miss him," he said.

The zone's Head of Administration, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE I Yunusa Aliyu, described Bello as a calm and firm leader, who has left the staff prepared for the challenges ahead. "We have always known you for your leadership and guidance. You are calm and firm and always desired to succeed. As you retire, rest assured that you have left us well prepared for the challenges ahead," he said.

Assistant Commander of the EFCC ACE II Mainforce Ekwu Adaka of the Legal Department on his part stated that Bello provided a conducive environment for everyone to thrive in the workplace, adding that he is an administrator par excellence. "Oga mentored me in the practice of law. He sharpened my advocacy skills. He is a father-figure, who provided a very calm and conducive environment for us to thrive and develop ourselves and our intellectual capacity in the workplace. He is an administrator par excellence."

Bello in his response appreciated the tremendous show of love and appreciation from the staff of the directorate and encouraged the officers to continue to uphold the integrity of the Commission.

"I wish you all the best. Let us continue to be friends. And let us also continue to uphold the integrity of the EFCC," he said.

Prior to joining the EFCC, Bello worked with some private law firms. To qualify as an EFCC operative, he enrolled in the Commission's Executive Course 4 in Police Training College.

The press release contains many photos:

[rain-of-encomiums-as-efcc-director-mahmud-bello-bows-out-of-service](#)

25 FEB 2025

EFCC Arraigns 16 Additional Chinese for Alleged Cyber-terrorism, Internet Fraud in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 arraigned additional 16 Chinese before Justice Daniel Osiagor of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos for fraud.

They are: Hu Hui (a.k.a A Bin), Liao Ri Xing (a.k.a. Li Jun), Li Qiang (a.k.a. Yang Huan Huan), A Wen, Da Tou, Cheng Jian, Cong Bing, Fei Fan, Huxi Heng, Zheng Wei (a. k. a. A Hong), Huang Zhi, Zhang Lei, Sun Zhi Peng, Huang Jin Hui, Wù Hao, and Lu Qiang. They are among the 792-member cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested by EFCC operatives on December 10, 2024, in Lagos, in a sting operation tagged "Eagle Flush Operation".

The suspects were arraigned on separate charges, bordering on cybercrimes, cyber-terrorism, possession of documents containing false pretence, advance fee fraud and identity theft.

One of the charges against Qiang reads: "That you, Li Qiang (a.k.a Yang Huan Huan) and Genting International Co. Ltd Sometime in December, 2024 at Lagos within the

jurisdiction of this Honourable Court cause to be accessed, computer system used for the purpose of destabilizing and destroying the economy and social structure of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18(1) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act 2015".

One of the charges against Heng reads: "That you, Hu Xi Heng and Genting International Co. Ltd sometime in December, 2024 at Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court cause to be accessed, computer system used for the purpose of destabilizing and destroying the economy and social structure of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18(1) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act 2015."

They all pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to them, following which prosecution counsel, Nnaemeka Omewa, asked the court for a trial date and for the defendants to be remanded in a correctional facility.

Justice Osiagor adjourned the matter till June 23, 2025 for trial, and ordered that they be remanded in a correctional facility.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arraigns-16-additional-chinese-for-alleged-cyber-terrorism-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition comment: EFCC needs to quit trying to pass the buck onto the Chinese for being big-time 419 Ogas. The vast majority of 419ers (West African Advance Fee Fraudsters) are Nigerian nationals, and the home offices of expatriate 419er cells worldwide are generally in Nigeria. For an extended commentary on this issue, scroll down to our 21 FEB 2025 News post "EFCC Arraigns 17 Chinese for Alleged Cyber-terrorism, Internet Fraud in Lagos" below.

24 FEB 2025

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal Directorate, on Monday, February 24, 2025 arrested 59 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested at Abacha Road, Mararaba axis of Nasarawa state following credible intelligence about their suspected involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

Items recovered from them include 73 phones of different brands.

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

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-59-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

21 FEB 2025

Olukoyede is Anti-corruption Crusader of the Year 2024

The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has been honoured as the Anti-corruption Crusader of the Year 2024.

The honour was bestowed on him on Saturday, February 15, 2024 by a leading Nigerian news magazine, The Reporters Nigeria, at an impressive ceremony which held at A Class Park and Events Centre, Maitama, Abuja.

Halima AbdulRauf who spoke on behalf of the organisers, said Olukoyede's choice for the award was informed by his "tireless efforts in combating financial crimes, promoting accountability and setting ethical leadership benchmarks."

Mr. Wilson Uwujaren, EFCC's Director of Public Affairs who received the award on behalf of Olukoyede, thanked the organisers for acknowledging the ground-breaking works being

done by the EFCC Chairman in sanitizing the economic space, restoring confidence in the economy and fighting the scourge of internet fraud.

He said the honour will further motivate the EFCC, while also dedicating the award to all the hardworking personnel of the Commission.

The press release contains a photo:

[olukoyede-is-anti-corruption-crusader-of-the-year-2024](#)

21 FEB 2025

EFCC Arraigns 17 Chinese for Alleged Cyber-terrorism, Internet Fraud in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday, February 21, 2025, arraigned 17 more Chinese and a company, Genting International Co. Ltd, before Justice Musa Kakaki and Justice Daniel Osiagor, both of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos for fraud.

They are: Mao Bu Yi, Li Xiang Long, Dai Li, Yu Hai Qing, Jia Yang, Jia Zhi, Hao Tao Kun, Liu Chuang, Zhao Xiao Liang, Ziao Zi Cheng, Zhang San Feng, Li Zhong Chan, Chen Gui Ping, Su Jan Fu, Su Zong Gen, Wang Jie, and Zeng Zerong.

The defendants are among the 792-member cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested on December 10, 2024, in a sting operation tagged "Eagle Flush Operation" by EFCC operatives.

They were arraigned on separate charges bordering on alleged cyber-terrorism, cybercrime, possession of documents containing false pretence, and identity theft.

While Jie and Zerong were arraigned before Justice Kakaki, the remaining 15 were arraigned before Justice Osiagor.

The charge against Yi reads: "That you, Mao Bu Yi and Genting International Co. Limited sometimes in December 2024 at Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, willfully caused to be accessed computer system for the purpose of destabilizing and destroying the Economy and social structure of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (as Amended, 2024)."

The charge against Jie reads: "That you, Wang Jie (a.k.a. Xu Zhong Xiang) and Genting International Co. Limited, sometime between the 29th of November, 2024 and 10th of December, 2024 at No. 7, Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island, Ikoyi, Lagos, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems which were organized to destabilized the social and economic structure of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, when you secretly procured and employed several Nigerian youths for identity theft and other computer related fraud, and you thereby committed an offence, contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2015 As amended)."

They all pleaded "not guilty" to the charges, following which prosecution counsel, M.S. Owede, T.J. Banjo, A.C. Olowonih, and N.C. Mutfwang asked the courts for trial dates and for the defendants to be remanded in the appropriate correctional center.

While Justice Kakaki adjourned the matter till March 20, 2025 for trial, Justice Osiagor adjourned till June 11, 2025 for trial. They were all ordered to be remanded in the correctional centre.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-17-chinese-for-alleged-cyber-terrorism-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition comment: So, to recap all these "the Chinese are the True 419er Ogas stories" of late: The EFCC has arrested 792 419ers of a large scale 419 syndicate in Lagos, about 200 of which were Chinese, operating from the offices of a company with a Chinese sounding name. These Chinese "willfully caused to be accessed computer systems which were organized to destabilized the social and economic structure of the Federal Republic of Nigeria" doing this having "secretly procured and employed several Nigerian youths for identity theft and other computer related fraud". So, there was this company, says the EFCC, with a Chinese name, that nobody knows who owns or are the principals in, or where the monies it "made" were sent, or to whom; who somehow managed to import a hundred Chinese who may or may not have had visas, or sponsors, or any legal reason to be in Nigeria; who then managed to somehow "secretly" hire "several" (actually 600 or so) naive Nigerian youths to engage in 419 operations "for identity theft and other computer related fraud" who then "accessed computer systems in order to destabilize the social and economic structure of the Federal Republic of Nigeria" (we have rephrased this quote a bit).

So, says the EFCC, this latest thing is the fault of these criminal Chinese corrupting Nigerians and attacking the Nigerian state. This operation could not have been set up by Nigerian 419 Ogas bringing in the Chinese to use their language skills to target potential 419 victims in China and other Asian countries, Noooooooo... if course not. After all, what 419 Oga would be smart enough to want to expand in a big say into the vast Chinese speaking Asian market? Apparently, the EFCC thinks the big Nigerian 419 Ogas and Sydnicates are too stupid to do this obvious thing. Well, the 419 Coalitiom doesn't agree with that. Given the huge and continued success of Nigerian 419 operations over the last 40 years or so, we have learned to give the 419 Ogas and Syndicates high marks for their sophistication, vision, marketing, globalization, and other skills. We suggest that the EFCC is selling the local talent short.

And, of course, the EFCC Istely has arrested a couple of hundred Chinese 419ers nationally to date, and many thousands of Nigerian nationals, all of which which is great - but it does not mention the kazillion unarrested Nigerian nationals who have been 419ing away nationwide for the last 40 some years. These Chinese are a tiny drop in the bucket of 419 crime.

It seems like tha EFCC has been pressing the view lately that 419 (West African Advance Fee Fraud) is not really a Nigeria centered problem. They seem to be pushing the idea that "See, it isn't us Nigerians, it is the Chinese who are running it! The Chinese are the Real bad big time 419ers! They are the culprits! It's not us Nigerians! These bad Chinese are corrupting our people! We are protecting the Nigerian people, Nation, and the world from these rapacious Chinese who are corrupting them and destroying our nation"!

Let 419 Coalition tell you... the big 419 syndicates are Never going to allow the Chinese to muscle in on their operations, especially on their own turf. In the unlikely event the Chinese were to attempt this, the local 419 Syndicates would take out their operations one way or another... and who knows, maybe that is what happened to Genting International. Maybe the local Ogas ratted out the competition. Stranger things have happened in the World of 419.

While 419 Coalition is in favor of arresting 419ers of any nationality in any location, we think the EFCC should quit trying to blame 419 on the Chinese. The vast majority of 419ers (West African Advance Fee Fraudsters) are, have always been, and continue to be, Nigerian nationals, and the "home offices" of most 419 syndicates operating at home and globally are in Nigeria. So, EFCC, arrest Your national 419ers, and any other nationality 419ers you find on your turf, by all means! But quit trying to pass the buck on 419 off onto the Chinese. Trying to pass the buck reflects badly on you, and tarnishes the Good work that you Do. Respectfully, Coordinator, 419 Coalition

21 FEB 2025

EFCC Hands Over \$132,362.43, N78,566,324.81 to Foreign Victims of Fraud

As a gesture of its commitment to tackling economic and financial crimes and offering restitution to victims of fraudulent practices, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has handed over a total sum \$132,362.43

(One Hundred and Thirty Two, Three Hundred and Sixty Two United States Dollars, Forty Three Cents), N78,566, 324. 81(Seventy Eight Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Six Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty Four Naira, Eighty one kobo) to American, Spanish and Swiss victims of local fraudsters.

The handover, which was performed by the Executive Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ola Olukoyede took place on Friday, February 21, 2025 at the EFCC's corporate headquarters in Jabi, Abuja. A delighted Olukoyede observed that, "The event is a demonstration of the commitment of the federal government of Nigeria and that of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to the fight against corruption and financial crimes. A commitment to good governance, a commitment to stimulating the economy and a commitment to prove to the entire world that Nigeria is not a safe haven for financial crimes, a commitment to international cooperation and international synergy in the fight against financial crimes, which you will agree with me, has become a global crime."

Speaking further, he said. "We are here to demonstrate that the federal government of Nigeria, through the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC is ready to do everything possible to prevent financial crimes from being perpetrated in our system. And when one has taken place, to investigate where assets are involved, to trace, to recover and where necessary, prosecute.

"We don't just recover, we retribute the victims. We are here this morning to retribute those who were victimized through the perpetration of economic and financial crimes. It is important to know that once proceeds of crime are recovered, the most responsible thing to do is to retribute the victims.

Handed over in addition to money are vehicles and real estate to citizens of Spain, United States of America and Switzerland. Acting Ambassador of Spain to Nigeria, Maria Higon Velasco received the sum of \$1,300 (One Thousand Three Hundred Dollars) and evidence of N30 million already transferred to the Embassy of Spain in Nigeria for onward transmission to a victim, Maria Del Rosario San Jose.

Florent Geel, Senior Political Officer, First Secretary, Embassy of Switzerland received \$100,011.43 (One Hundred Thousand, Eleven Dollars and Forty-three Cents on behalf of a victim, Chantai Helene Lavancy, formerly known as Chantai Helene Maeder.

Charles Smith, Legal Attache, Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, Embassy of the United States received the sum of \$7,344 (Seven Thousand, Three Hundred and Forty-Four Dollars); N7,963,483.35 (Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Sixty-three Thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty-three Naira, Thirty-five Kobo), and Bitcoin cryptocurrency valued at \$4,470.00 (Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Seventy Dollars) on behalf of the United States Embassy in Nigeria for onward transmission to a victim, Maria Jesus Brockell.

Also received by Smith was Mercedes Benz E550 4Matic Chasis No:WDDHF9AB6AA111112, Mercedes Benz C450 AMG with Chasis No: WDD20J0641F282467, and one residential bungalow, located at 17/19 Seaman Street, Unguwar Maigero, Kaduna, Kaduna State on behalf of the United States Embassy in Nigeria for onward transmission to the crime victim.

Additionally, Smith received the sum of \$7,527 (Seven thousand, Five Hundred and Twenty-seven Dollars) on behalf of the United States Embassy in Nigeria for onward transmission to the victim of the crime, Michael Smith. He also received the sum of \$11,710.00 (Eleven Thousand, Seven Hundred and Ten Dollars) on behalf of the United States Embassy in Nigeria for onward transmission to the crime victim, Cheryle Williams.

Lastly, Smith received the sum of N32,639,358.11 (Thirty-Two Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-nine Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty-eight Naira, Eleven Kobo) on behalf of the United States Embassy in Nigeria for onward transmission to the crime victim, Marva Marrow.

In her remarks, her Excellency Velasco expressed gratitude, adding that "This is a sign of the collaboration between Nigeria and Spain and we are very grateful for this collaboration."

Smith said "As the FBI Legal Attache and the representative of the US government I want to say we personally appreciate this. Many here may not understand what the impact this does to the victims. This gives them complete closure and it allows them to feel whole again. So we

really do appreciate and we thank the EFCC. The EFCC is just not operating in Nigeria. The EFCC is a major global contender and you should recognize that every time.”

On behalf of the government of Switzerland, Geel I thanked the government of Nigeria and EFCC for the recovery and restitution.

“I thank the Nigerian government and especially the EFCC for the work they have done to combat internet fraud and other financial crimes. Today's restitution of money obtained from a Swiss citizen demonstrates the effectiveness but also integrity, professionalism, courage and collaboration that occur between Nigeria and Switzerland. So, thank you for this exemplary collaboration and work in making the digital world safer and better regulated. Switzerland will continue to work alongside the Nigeria government in the service of the security of our respective people. So thank you again,” he said.

The Permanent Secretary, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Umar Ahmed, thanked Olukoyede for his efforts in the anti-corruption fight and conveyed the felicitation of the Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar and the ministry to the EFCC and the Nigerian government.

According to him, “This is really an unprecedented development, and you cannot believe the impact that this development will have on the mandate of the ministry, because it makes our work a whole lot easier because it really enhances the credibility of Nigeria in the international scene. And it will also go a long way in restoring investors’ confidence in the country.

And the ministry is very well with you in pursuing this mandate and want to thank you for this initiative. It demonstrates the support of our President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the fight against corruption and also in strengthening the EFCC in carrying out its mandate. All of us in the ministry are really happy with this development and we'll keep on working with you and supporting you and in carrying your mandate.”

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-hands-over-132-362-43-n78-566-324-81-to-foreign-victims-of-fraud](#)

419 Coalition comment: Now, this is the type of press release we are always very pleased to see, and we hope to see many more like it. Kudos to the EFCC for repatriating these 419ed monies to the 419ed victims.

21 FEB 2025

EFCC Arraigns 18 more Chinese for Alleged Cyber-terrorism, Internet Fraud in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, February 20, 2025 arraigned additional 18 Chinese before Justice Daniel Osiagor of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

They are: Huang Bo, Xiong Zhen, Lai Rui Feng, Deng Wei Qiang, Fu Min, Qin Xiao Yong, Li Dong, Li De Wen, Luo Mao Yang, Zhao Xiao Hui, Du Ji Feng, Liu Hai Rong, Liu Ni Ni, Liu Gang, Sun Qi, Zhang Jian, Peng Fa li and Huo Wen Jie.

They are among the 792-member cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested on December 10, 2024, in Lagos, in a sting operation tagged "Eagle Flush Operation" by EFCC operatives.

The suspects were arraigned on separate charges, bordering on cybercrimes, cyber-terrorism, possession of documents containing false pretence and identity theft.

One of the charges reads: “That you Huang Bo, Xiong Zhen, Lai Rui Feng, Genting International Co. Ltd and A. Dao (at large) sometime in December 2024, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court conspired with yourselves to commit an offence to wit: cause to be accessed, computer systems for the purpose of destabilising and destroying the economic and social structure of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 27 (1) (b) and punishable under Section 18 (1) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015.”

They all pleaded “not guilty” to the charges when they were read to them, following which prosecution counsel, Nnaemeka Omewa, asked the court for a trial date and for the defendants to be remanded in the appropriate correctional center.

Justice Osiagor adjourned the matter till May 5, 2025 for trial, and ordered that they be remanded at the correctional custodial center.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-18-more-chinese-for-alleged-cyber-terrorism-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition asks: Who are the principal owners of Genting International? Where did the 419ed monies end up? Who vouched for the visas of the Chinese workers? Did they even Have visas? How did they get into the country? Why the emphasis on these Chinese 419ers when the great bulk of those arrested in "Operation Eagle Flush" were in fact Nigerian nationals? Could it be that the EFCC is attempting to shift the blame for the Massive 419 operations emanating from Nigeria onto somebody else, which is of course a non-starter? Could it be that the Chinese criminal syndicates were actually trying to get into the 419 business by setting up 419 operations in Nigeria rather than in China itself? Could it be that local 419 syndicates were pissed off by the Chinese poaching on their turf and ratted them out to the EFCC to get rid of them? Could it be that these Chinese were recruited by existing Nigerian 419 syndicates to diversify their 419ing staff and open new target opportunities? Shouldn't the EFCC be saying about ALL 419ers that they "cause to be accessed, computer systems for the purpose of destabilising and destroying the economic and social structure of Nigeria" given that their Massive number of Nigerian national 419ers do the same things as these Chinese? There are many more questions.... how about it, EFCC?

20 FEB 2025

Court Jails 11 Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Justice W.I. Aziegbemhin of Edo State High Court, sitting in Benin City has convicted and sentenced 11 (eleven) internet fraudsters to jail.

The convicts are: Izomor Samuel Efe, Nosakhare Bright, Emovon Destiny, Vincent Arogbo, Osarentin Morgan Aduwa, Osagiede Destiny Oghosa, Nosakhare Ernest Theophilus, Junior Emmanuel Efe, Osimen Princewill, Obamedo Clinton and David Iyobor.

They were prosecuted by the Benin Zonal Directorate of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate one-count charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence, advance fee fraud, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents.

The charge against Efe reads: "That you Justice Samuel Efe (m) on or about the 8th of February, 2025 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession, documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.”.

They all pleaded “guilty” to the charges when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, F.A Jirbo, I.K Agwai and Salihu Ahmed to ask the court to convict and sentence them accordingly, while the defence counsel prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Aziegbemhin convicted and sentenced Izomor Efe and Bright to two years imprisonment or to pay N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, each. Destiny and Arogbo also bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, each.

Aduwa, Oghosa, Theophilus, Junior Efe, Princewill, Clinton and Iyobor, were slammed with three years imprisonment or to pay N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, each.

In addition to their sentences, all the convicts forfeited their phones, laptop computers and sums of money seen in their bank accounts to the federal government and undertook in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts' journey to the correctional centre began with their arrest in a sting operation by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC following credible intelligence that linked them to fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-11-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

19 FEB 2025

Court Jails One for N10m Internet Fraud in Maiduguri

The Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of one Abraham Ayomikun Ajibodu, before Justice K. Dagat of the Federal High Court, sitting in Maiduguri, Borno State for internet fraud.

The convict was arraigned on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, on a two -count charge bordering on money laundering and impersonation to the tune of N10, 000,000.00.

Count one of the charges reads:

“That you Abraham Ayomikun Ajibodu between 2022 and 2023 at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did directly take possession of United States of America Dollars denominated cash app and gift cards worth about \$7,470.00(Seven Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy United States Dollars) which upon conversion to naira amounted to an aggregate sum of N10, 000,000.00 (Ten Million Naira) paid into your United Bank for Africa account No. 2114324883, Abraham A. Ajibodu being the naira equivalent value for the cash app and gift cards you received which you knew or reasonably ought to have known is proceed of unlawful act to wit: your false representation to unsuspecting foreign nationals like; Donna Hughs, Loreitta, Van Dough etc. using fake social media account like Facebook account with the name' GEORGE STRAIT, a citizen of United States of America and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2)(d) of the Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act.”

Ajibodu, pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to him and counsel to the prosecution, Abdulmalik. D Aliyu prayed the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

Justice Dagat thereafter convicted and sentenced him to four years imprisonment on counts one and two with an option of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) fine on each count.

The judge further ordered the forfeiture of the sum of \$ 400,00(Four Hundred Dollars), being value of cash App and gift cards benefited by the convict to be repatriated to the victim as well as the forfeiture of iPhone 13 pro max, oraimo power bank and a used Honda Accord 2003 model to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The convict's journey to the Correctional Centre began when he was arrested by operatives of the EFCC for making false representation to unsuspecting foreign nationals like; Donna Hughs, Loreitta, Van Dough and others by using fake social media accounts like Facebook account and others with the name' GEORGE STRAIT and defrauded them in the process.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[court-jails-one-for-n10m-internet-fraud-in-maiduguri](#)

19 FEB 2025

Court Jails 30 Internet Fraudsters in Ibadan

The Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of 30 internet fraudsters before Justices Ladiran Akintola, Adebisi Adetujoye and K.B. Olawoyin of the Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ibadan.

The convicts are: Gbadega Ayomide, Ojo Oluwapelumi Oluwatomiwa, John Odey Ade, Ezekiel Oluwatobi Damilare, Usman Olamilekan Hamed, Ogunjobi Oluwafemi Oluwadunsin, Abdulrauf Taiwo Adekunmi, Ariyo Adejuwon Iyanu, Ahmed Ridwan Tajudeen, Ayomide Adedara, Oyewale Opeyemi Kayode, Charles Nneji, Obaoye Testimony Isaac, Olisemeka Tochukwu Anakweze, Ojo Opeyemi Makanjuola and Taiwo Kayode Goodness.

Others are: Bolarinwa Usman Gbolahan, Olawuni Gbenga Samuel, Segun Michael Balogun, Charles Ifeoluwa Olayode, Sule Taofeek Rotimi, Sodade Oludotun Tolulope, Adeyemo Waris Olabode, Akinnawonu Bidemi Raphael, Ayanda Samuel Oluwaseyi, Adeniyi Oluwasola Oluwatosin, Olorunosebi Toyyib Alabi, Okorie Ifeanyi Favour, Akande Opeyemi Babatunde and Siyanbola Oluwaseun Ibrahim.

They were prosecuted on separate one-count charges that bordered on impersonation, obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents.

The charge against Ibrahim reads: "That you, Siyanbola Oluwaseun Ibrahim "M" sometimes in June, 2022 at Ibadan, Oyo State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud one Austin Frazier via Facebook messenger did falsely represent yourself as Vivian Harding, a female from Chicago, United State of America, which representation you knew to be false, thereby committed the offence of personation, contrary to Section 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 30, Laws of Oyo State, 2000."

All the defendants pleaded "guilty" to the charges when they read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, Modupe Akinkoye, Oluwatoyin Owodunni, Chidi Okoli, Sanusi Galadanchi, Lanre Suleiman, Mabas Mabur, Shamsuddeen Bashir, David Olubode and A.M. Aliyu to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Oluwatosin to one year imprisonment or to pay a fine N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira), Oluwaseyi to six months imprisonment or to pay a fine of N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira), Raphael to three months jail term or to pay a fine of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira).

Justice Akintola also convicted and sentenced Favour, Olabode, Tolulope, Gbolahan, Goodness, Makanjuola, Nneji and Isaac to six months community service each or to pay N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, each.

Others convicted and sentenced by Justice Akintola are Ibrahim, Alabi and Babatunde who bagged three months community service each or to pay N30, 000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira) fine, each.

Justice Olawoyin on her part convicted and slammed Ayomide, Oluwatomiwa, Ade, Balogun, Olayode and Rotimi with one year imprisonment each or to pay a fine of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira), N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira), N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira), N200, 000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira), N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and N200, 000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) respectively.

Also convicted and sentenced by Justice Olawoyin is Samuel who got six months jail term or to pay a fine of N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira).

Justice Adetujoye convicted and sentenced Damilare, Hamed, Oluwadunsin, Adekunmi, Iyanu, Kayode and Anakweze to two months community service each. Adedara bagged one month community service. Their sentences are without an option of fine.

Though Justice Adetujoye convicted Tajudeen, he cautioned and discharged him.

Besides their sentences, all the convicts forfeited items recovered from them that include money, phones and a Lexus 350 car with registration number: FKJ – 320 – HW recovered from Anakweze to the federal government. In addition, Anakweze was ordered by the court to make

a restitution of N8, 731, 000.00 (Eight Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-one Thousand Naira) to his victim.

The press release contains photos of some of the 419ers:

[court-jails-30-internet-fraudsters-in-ibadan](#)

19 FEB 2025

Court Jails Internet Fraudster in Port Harcourt

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate has secured the conviction and sentence of one Chinedu Ukpai Kalu, an internet fraudster before Justice P. I. Ajoku of the Federal High Court, sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

He was prosecuted on a two-count charge, bordering on fraudulent impersonation, and advance fee fraud.

One of the charges reads: “That you Chinedu Ukpai Kalu on or about the 9th day of May, 2024 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court with the intent to defraud, obtained a total sum of £1200 (One Thousand Two Hundred Pounds Only) from one Muhammad Zabhar from the UK under the pretence that you are a legitimate miner, 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 Offenses Act, 2006 and punishable under section 1(3) of the said Act.

He pleaded “guilty” when charges were read to him, following which prosecution counsel K .W. Chukwuma-Eneh urged the court to convict and sentence him accordingly. Defence counsel, U.S Ejemera, however, prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that the defendant was a first time offender and has learned his lesson.

Justice Ajoku convicted and sentenced him to 12 months in prison or to pay N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) fine, payable into the Consolidated Revenue Account of the Federation.

In addition to his sentence, he forfeited his iPhone X, Samsung Galaxy A5, 9G and Samsung Galaxy A14, 5G recovered from him upon arrest to the federal government. Also forfeited to the federal government are the sums of £1,200 (One Thousand, Two Hundred Pounds and \$400 (Four Hundred Dollars), recovered from him during investigation.

Kalu’s journey to the correctional facility started when he was arrested by the Commission in a sting operation in the Choba axis of Port Harcourt, following intelligence report on the activities of some internet fraudsters in the area.

Investigation revealed that the convict operated fraudulent Facebook, TikTok, Telegram and Instagram accounts which he used to swindle unsuspecting victims of their money.

The press release contains a photo:

[court-jails-internet-fraudster-in-port-harcourt](#)

18 FEB 2025

EFCC Arraigns Four more Chinese for Alleged Cyber-terrorism, Internet Fraud in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, arraigned four Chinese before Justices M. Kakaki and Ayokunle Faji, both of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

The quartet are part of the 792-member syndicate of alleged cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested in Lagos on December 10, 2024 by officers of the EFCC in a surprise operation tagged "Eagle Flush Operation."

While three of the defendants, Xia Guang Can, Li Xu Xin, and Zhang Xue Hui were arraigned on separate one-charge charges before Justice Kakaki, Lu Yubo was arraigned on a two-count charge before Justice Faji. The charges border on internet fraud, cyber-terrorism, possession of documents containing false pretence, advance fee fraud and identity theft.

The charge against Hui reads: "That you, ZHANG XUE HUI sometimes in December, 2024 at Lagos within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court cause to be accessed computer system used for the purpose of destabilizing and destroying the economy and social structure of Nigeria and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable) under Section 18(1) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act 2015".

One of Yubo's charges reads: "That you, Lu Yubo and Genting International Co. Limited, adult, on or about the 11th December, 2024 at No.7, Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island, Ikoyi, Lagos, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, willfully caused to be accessed, a computer system which was organized to seriously destabilize the economic and social structure of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, by procuring and employing several Nigerian youths for identity theft and other computer related fraud, and you thereby committed an offence, contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition and Prevention, etc.) Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2015 (as amended)."

They all pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to them, following which prosecution counsel, Fanen Anum and Ahmed Yerima asked the courts respectively for a trial date and for the defendants to be remanded at a Correctional Centre, while counsel for the defendants prayed for a short adjournment to file their bail applications.

Justice Kakaki adjourned till March 18, 2025 for trial, and ordered that the three defendants be remanded in a Correctional Centre, while Justice Faji adjourned till March 31 and April 3, 2025 for trial, and ordered that Yubo be remanded in the Ikoyi Correctional Centre.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-four-more-chinese-for-alleged-cyber-terrorism-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition question: Again, Who or what entity(ies) control GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED? And, where did the stolen monies go to?

18 FEB 2025

EFCC Arrests 15 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abuja

Operatives of the Makurdi Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 15 suspected internet fraudsters in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

They were arrested in Amax Apartment, Guzape, following credible intelligence that linked them to fraudulent internet activities.

Items recovered from them include a Toyota Highlander with customized registration number (BORNO AAA) and phones.

They have made useful statements and would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

17 FEB 2025

Witness Narrates how Chinese Employer Lured her into Alleged Cyber-terrorism, Internet Fraud in Lagos

The First Prosecution Witness, PW1, Jacob Lilian, in the trial of Ling Yang (a.k.a Shoa Ming), a Chinese, and part of the alleged 792-member syndicate of cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects has narrated before Justice D.I. Dipeolu of Federal High Court, sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos how her job search at Genting International Co. Limited ended in being lured into dating scam by the defendant.

Yang alongside Genting International Co. Limited is being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on a four-count charge, bordering on cybercrime and advance fee fraud, having been arrested in Lagos by officers of the Commission in a surprise operation tagged "Eagle Flush Operation" on December 10, 2024.

One of the charges reads: "That you, LING YANG A.K.A. SHAO MING, sometime in December 2024 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with the intent to gain a financial advantage for your employer fraudulently impersonated one Amity by holding yourself out as such, and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act, 2015." He pleaded guilty to all the charges, prompting his trial.

Led in evidence by prosecution counsel, Hanatu U. KofarNaisa, the witness, a Nigerian identified the defendant as one of the Chinese that work on the Seventh Floor of the company's building.

"As at November 2024, I was in search of a job and so I joined a WhatsApp group called job update, which was where I got to know about the job that stated customer service and only an address written as No 7 Oyin Jolayemi Street, Lagos. On getting there I was not asked to present any CV or documentations, and when I got in, I was required to sit in front of a computer. I thought I was about to have an online test, but rather I did a speed limit test that was set to be 30 and I got 28," she said.

She added that she was encouraged to improve her speed, and subsequently given a job with the company.

"No credentials were required or asked for and I was not given any offer letter," she said.

According to her, the company provided accommodation for her on the Island and she moved in.

She further testified that she was later given a script to read, adding that she was told that was her job.

"On the script there was a name, Alani Thomas, and I was asked to read the script further and to get familiar with any customer assigned to me and chat with them," she said.

Testifying further, she stated that Europeans were the main targets and that she was usually introduced as Alani Thomas.

"The WhatsApp group is being monitored by the employers, and once names are exchanged, and I start to get to know the customer, by the third day of chatting with the customer, once they are at ease with me, I will be asked to stop chatting with the customer and then the employers will take over the chatting," she said.

She disclosed that her monthly salary was N250,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and that the Nigerian employees had seat numbers and computers allocated to them.

She disclosed that she wanted to resign from the job, but the company had a way of caging them and monitoring their activities.

"We were always escorted by security officials from the office to the accommodation and we were never allowed to leave the office premises. Before we start working for the day, we have to submit our phones.

The EFCC arrest was a saving grace for me," she said.

Prosecution counsel applied for an adjournment to enable it to tender the computer with the scripts in evidence.

Justice Dipeolu adjourned the case till April 11, 2025 for continuation of trial.

[witness-narrates-how-chinese-employer-lured-her-into-alleged-cyber-terrorism-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition question: Again, Who or what entity(ies) control GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED?

14 FEB 2025

EFCC Arraigns 11 more Chinese for Alleged Cyber-terrorism, Internet Fraud in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday, February 14, 2025, arraigned 11 more Chinese and a company, Genting International Co. Ltd, before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos for fraud.

The defendants are: Li Niu, Xiao Qinyun, Fu Zheng Yang, Xiao Yi, Bei Bei Linde Jun, Li Hang, Huan Livo, Wang Wei Tong Mo Ying, Gao Yang, Zebin Chen and Yuan Zhibin.

They are part of the 792-member syndicate of alleged cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested in Lagos on December 10, 2024 by officers of the EFCC in a surprise operation tagged "Eagle Flush Operation."

The suspects were arraigned on separate charges bordering on cyber-terrorism, cybercrimes, possession of documents containing false pretence, advance fee fraud and identity theft.

The charge against Jun reads: "That you, BEI BEI LINDE JUN, (Female), adult and GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED sometime between the 28th of November, 2024 and 10th of December, 2024. at No. 7, Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island, Ikoyi, Lagos, within the Jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria with intent to defraud, willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems which were organized to destabilize the social and economic structure of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, when you secretly procured and employed several Nigerian youths for identity theft and other computer related fraud, and you thereby committed an offence, contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2015 (As amended)."

Niu's charge reads: "That you, LI NIU sometimes in 2024 at Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, had in your possession documents where you represented yourself as 'LISA' and that you are a female from Singapore, a representation which you knew or ought to have known is false and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under section 1 (3) of the same Act."

They all pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to them, following which prosecution counsel, Ahmed Yerima, F.S. Mohammed, A.M. Dambuwq and N.C. Mutfwang asked the court for a trial date and for the defendants to be remanded in a Correctional Centre.

Justice Aneke adjourned the matter till March 14 and 21, 2025 for trial, and ordered that

the defendants be remanded in the Ikoyi and Kirikiri Correctional Centres.

The press release contains photos:

[-efcc-arraigns-11-more-chinese-for-alleged-cyber-terrorism-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition question: Again, Who or what entity(ies) control GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED?

13 FEB 2025

Seven Convicts Forfeit Hotel, N230.3m, Others in Makurdi

Justice M.S.Abubakar of the Federal High Court, sitting in Makurdi, Benue State has ordered the forfeiture to the federal government, the sum of N232,396,714.00 (Two Hundred and Thirty-two Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-six Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fourteen Naira), a hotel as well as the sum of \$4,977 (Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-seven US Dollars) recovered from seven fraudsters.

The forfeiture followed the conviction and sentencing of the fraudsters, prosecuted on separate one-count charges, bordering on criminal impersonation, money laundering, cybercrime and obtaining by false pretence by the Makurdi Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The convicts are: Tamaraudeinyefa Shedrack Brakekebebe, Godday Conference Brakekebebe, Terhemba Josiah Asagh, Nyiter Avalumun Elijah, Ahmed Alabi Akindele, Kennedy Torbem Ayanger and Hwande Aondooungwa James.

The charge against Brakekebebe reads: “That you Tamaraudeinyefa Shedrack Brakekebebe "M" (24 years old) in Makurdi, Benue State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did retain the sum of N64,762,169.00 (Sixty Four Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty Nine Naira) in your Access Bank Account Number 0106661087 and the sum of N102,750,246.00 (One Hundred and Two Million,Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty Six Naira) in your Zenith Bank Account number 2650121852, which you reasonably knew to be proceeds of unlawful Act, to wit; Cybercrime and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2) (d) of the Money Laundering (prohibition and Prevention etc) Act 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3)of the same Section.

That of Asagh reads: “That you Terhemba Josiah Asagh "M"(27 years old) sometime between 2021 and 2025 in Makurdi, Benue State with intent to defraud did send electronic messages via Facebook App with fake identity as an Asian soldier, working for United Nations in the United State of America which reliance, unsuspecting foreigners were caused to suffer loss of about \$300,0000 (Three Hundred Thousand USD, which you converted to your Kuda Bank Account Number 2018650772 and use same in building a Century Crip Inn Hotel, Gboko and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2)(b)of the Cybercrime (Prohibition and Prevention etc) Act 2015 and punishable under same Section of the Act.”

They all pleaded “guilty” to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the review of their cases by prosecuting counsel M.Yusuf, A.S.Idris, A.Gazali K.T.Sunday and Imadifon Igbinidu, who urged the court afterwards to convict and sentence them accordingly.

After listening to prosecution and defence counsel, Justice Abubakar convicted and sentenced Tamaraudeinyefa Brakekebebe to one year imprisonment or to pay N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine. In addition, he forfeited the sum of N102,750,246.00 (One Hundred and Two Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty Six Naira), found in his Zenith Bank Account No: 2650121856 and the sum of N64,762,169.00 (Sixty Four Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty Two Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty Nine Naira) to the federal government.

Godday Brakekebebe was convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment or to pay N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine. In addition, he forfeited the sum of N56, 633,246 (Fifty-six Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-three Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-six Naira) found in his Zenith Bank Account No: 4068151050 and another sum of N200,929.00 (Two Hundred Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty-nine Naira), found in his Access Bank account No: 1462517972 to the federal government.

Asagh was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment or to pay N1,500,000.00 (One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine. In addition, he forfeited his Century Crip Inn Hotel, situated at No: 41 Adekaa Yaji Street, Gboko North LGA, Benue State and registered as plot 5352 in Gboko Land Registry and a Mercedes-Benz E350 4Matic with Chassis No: WDDHFBQAA121814 and Registration No: ABJ 367 CY to the federal government.

Elijah bagged one year imprisonment or to pay N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine. In addition, he is to reconstitute the sum of N10million to his victim through the EFCC Recovery Account and forfeit a Mercedes-Benz GLE with chassis No:4J6D5H876A44065 and Registration No ABJ 797 AL to the federal government.

Akindele was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment or to pay N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) fine. In addition, he is to reconstitute the sum of N1,645,000.00 (One Million, Six Hundred and Forty-five Thousand Naira) to his victim.

Ayanger was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment or to pay N100,000.00(One Hundred Thousand Naira) fine. In addition, he is to reconstitute the sum of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) to his victim, while James was convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment or to pay N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine. In addition, he forfeited the sum of N8,050,124.00 (Eight Million and Fifty Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-four Naira) found in his Zenith Bank Account No: 4256815018 and as well as \$4977 (Four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy-seven US Dollars) USD in his wallet account to the federal government.

The road to their ill-fate began when operatives of the Special Task Force (STF) of the Makurdi Zonal Directorate of the EFCC followed credible intelligence on their involvements in fraudulent criminal activities and arrested them in their hideouts.

The press release contains photos:

[seven-convicts-forfeit-hotel-n230-3m-others-in-makurdi](#)

13 FEB 2025

EFCC Arraigns 16 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Enugu

The Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Wednesday, February 12, 2025 arraigned 16 suspected internet fraudsters before Justice Mohammed Garba Umar of the Federal High Court, sitting in Independence Layout, Enugu for fraud.

The defendants are: Chidera Nehemiah, Chikamso Nwabuisi, Nnamekwe Jeremiah Chukwu, Chiemerie Christian Nworie, Azubuike Akachukwu, Onah Chisom Promise, Onoja Anthony Enemari, Uboegbu Chisom Emmanuel and Ediekemi Patrick Udokaebe.

Others are: David Ugaji Izuhukwu, Asomugha Favour Chibuike, Onuoha Marvelous Onyeani, Chidera Godwin, Modozie Chukwudalu Sixtus, Ugwu Chibuzor Pedro and Obiora Favour Ebube.

While Chukwu, Akachukwu, Promise, Udokaebe, Chibuike, Godwin and Sixtus were arraigned on separate two-count charges, the rest of the defendants were arraigned on separate three-count charges, all bordering on fraudulent personation, obtaining by false pretence, money laundering and possession of fraudulent documents.

Count three against Nwabuisi reads: “That you, Chikamso Nwabuisi, sometime in January, 2025 in Awka, Anambra State, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, did commit a felony to wit: using and taking possession of the sum of Five Thousand US Dollars (\$5,000.00), knowing same to be fund that forms part of proceeds of an unlawful act and thereby committed an offence, contrary to Section 18 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2022, as amended and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the same Act.”

Court three against Chukwu reads: “That you, Nnaemeka Jeremiah Chukwu sometime in January 2025, at Awka, Anambra State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court committed a felony to wit: using and taking possession of the sum of \$5000.00, equivalent of N7, 679, 600 (Seven Million, Six Hundred and Seventy-nine Thousand, Six Hundred Naira) knowing same to be funds that form parts of the proceeds of an unlawful act and thereby committed an offence

contrary to Section 18 (2) (D) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the same Act”.

They all pleaded “not guilty” when the charges were separately read to them. In view of their plea, prosecution counsel, Michael Ikechukwu Ani, prayed the court for a trial date and for the defendants to be remanded in Enugu State Correctional Centre, while

defence counsel, Wisdom Ogbonna, E. J. Nwatarali, B. C. Okeke, O. E. Otakagu, D. O. Onyeji, M. I. Odo and Segun Oyesanya informed the court of pending bail applications of the defendants before the court. Prosecution counsel opposed the bail applications on the ground that they were not due for hearing having been informed at a very short notice and needed time to file counter-affidavits.

After listening to both sides, Justice Umar adjourned the matter involving Nehemiah, Nwabuisi, Chukwu, Nworie and Onyeamari till February 14, 2025 for the hearing of their bail applications, while those of Akachukwu, Promise, Emmanuel, Udoakebe, Izuchukwu, Sixtus and Ebube were adjourned till February 21, 2025 for hearing of the bail applications. The rest were adjourned till March 7, 2025 for the same purpose. He ordered that the defendants be remanded in the Enugu State Correctional Centre.

The defendants were among 37 suspected internet fraudsters arrested on Friday, January 17, 2025 in a sting operation at Dr. J. O. Ukwutinife Close, Commissioners Quarters, Ifite, Awka, Anambra State, following actionable intelligence linking them to internet criminal activities.

Investigations revealed that the defendants specialized in forging documents, impersonating foreign nationals and using fake social media accounts to defraud unsuspecting victims.

The press release contains photos of the suspects:

[efcc-arraigns-16-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-enugu](#)

11 FEB 2025

Court Jails Internet Fraudster in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentencing of one Chika Stanley Okoh for internet fraud, before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

He was arraigned in December 2024 on a one-count charge bordering on cybercrime.

The charge reads: “That you Chika Stanley Okoh sometimes in 2024, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently held out yourself on facebook account @Zachary Levi as Zachary Levi, a male American actor, with intention to gain advantage for yourself and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22(3) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition etc.) Act, 2015.”

He pleaded "guilty" to the charge when it was read to him, following which prosecution counsel, B.I. Oluseyi, invited an investigative officer of the EFCC, Damilare Adeosun to give a review of the facts of the case.

Adeosun told the court that the EFCC sometime in November 2024 received credible intelligence on the activities of internet fraudsters around the Lekki axis of Lagos and that "Acting on the intelligence, a sting operation was conducted at Lekki County Estate, Lagos State, where Okoh was arrested alongside several others," and was taken to EFCC office where he volunteered his statement.

"The defendant misrepresented himself to be a white man from the United States with the name Jonathan. The defendant also confessed that he does middle-man fraud by facilitating proceeds of fraud for internet fraudsters. And he gets a certain percentage from every transaction being facilitated. The defendant confessed to have benefitted the sum of N2 million, which he used to purchase an iPhone 14 Pro

Max. The device was recovered from him upon his arrest. The phone was examined by the forensic laboratory department and the forensic analysis revealed fraudulent documents," he said.

Adeosun added that in the course of the investigations, Okoh raised a United Bank for Africa (UBA) manager's cheque of N1 million as restitution.

The prosecution counsel tendered in evidence, Okoh's confessional statement, the device recovered from him, findings from the investigation and the manager's cheque with no objection from the defence counsel, Peter Taiwo.

In his judgment, Justice Aneke held that the prosecution proved its case beyond reasonable doubt and pronounced Okoh guilty as charged.

He was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment or to pay a fine of N1,000,000 (One Million Naira Only), to be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Account of the Federation. In addition, he is to serve 100 hours of community service.

The press release contains a photo:

[court-jails-internet-fraudster-in-lagos](#)

11 FEB 2025

EFCC Arraigns 16 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Enugu

The Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has arraigned 16 (sixteen) suspected internet fraudsters before Justice Folashade O. Giwa-Ogunbanjo of the Federal High Court, sitting in Independence Layout, Enugu State.

The defendants are: Ibemere Gerald Ifechukwu, Ngwu Chidozie Henry, Onwugbolu Charles, Okeke Emmanuel Ebubechukwu, Ikechukwu Augustine Ibeanu, Samuel Obi Chidera, Chukwuemeka Emmanuel Chinsed and Onoja Sampson Kingsley.

Others are: Chukwudi Francis Chinenye, Nwodo Nelson Obinna, Muolukwu Ikenna Anthony, Ebuka Peter Ejiofor, Okonkwo Nonso Chijioke, Ngwu Chidozie Sylvester, Duru Christopher and Seth Hyacinth Chidera.

While Emmanuel, Ebubechukwu, Henry, Chidera, Christopher, Francis and Charles were arraigned on separate two-count charges, the rest of the defendants were arraigned on separate three-count charges, all bordering on fraudulent impersonation, possession of fraudulent documents and money laundering.

Count three against Chidera reads: "That you, Samuel Obi Chidera, sometime in January, 2025, in Awka, Anambra State, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, did commit a felony to wit: Using and taking possession of the sum of Three Thousand United States Dollars (\$3,000), knowing same to be fund that forms part of proceeds of an unlawful act and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2022 as amended and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the same Act."

Count three against Chijioke reads: "That you, Okonkwo Nonso Chijioke, sometime in January, 2025, in Awka, Anambra State, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, did commit a felony to wit: Using and taking possession of the sum of Five Hundred United States Dollars (\$500), knowing same to be fund that forms part of proceeds of an unlawful act and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2022 as amended and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the same Act."

They pleaded "not guilty" when the charges were separately read to them, following which prosecution counsel, Michael Ikechukwu Ani prayed the court for a trial date and for the defendants to be remanded in Enugu State Correctional Centre, while defence counsel, J. O. Ezech, D. O. Orji, Lizzy Otakagu, E. J. Nwatarali, Michael

Odom and Wisdom Ogbonna made bail applications for the defendants before the court, which were opposed by prosecution counsel on the ground that he was just served the applications and needed time to study them and file counter affidavits.

After listening to both sides, Justice Giwa-Ogunbanjo adjourned the matters till February 17, 2025 for hearing of bail applications and ordered that the defendants be remanded in the Enugu State Correctional Centre.

The defendants were arrested on Friday, January 17, 2025 in a sting operation at Dr. J. O Ukwutunife Close, Commissioners Quarters, Ifite, Awka, Anambra State, following actionable intelligence linking them to online criminal activities.

Investigations revealed that while some of the defendants specialized in impersonating foreign nationals and defrauding their victims using fake social media accounts, others specialized on forging documents which they use in defrauding unsuspecting victims.

The press release contains a photo of each of the suspects:

[efcc-arraigns-16-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-enugu](#)

8 FEB 2025

Alleged Cyber Terrorism, Internet Fraud: EFCC Witness Reveals How He Was Instructed to Disguise As Female to gain Clients' Trust

A First Prosecution Witness, PW1, in the trial of one Xiao Hong Will, a Chinese, over an alleged cyber terrorism and internet fraud, on Friday, February 7, 2025, told Justice D.I. Dipeolu of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos how he was instructed by his employers to present himself as a female to gain clients' trust.

The witness, Rowland Turaki, a cyber security student, said he was one of the employees of the Chinese standing trial for alleged cyber terrorism and internet fraud.

Hong Will is a member of the syndicate of 792 alleged cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested on December 19, 2024 in Lagos during a surprise operation tagged "Eagle Flush Operation" by operatives of the EFCC.

He was subsequently arraigned alongside Genting International Company Limited on January 31, 2025 on a three-count charge bordering on an alleged case of cybercrimes, cyber-terrorism, possession of documents containing false pretence and identity theft, among others.

One of the counts reads: "XIAO HONG WILL and GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO.

LIMITED, on or about the 18th of December 2024 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems organised to seriously destabilise the constitutional structure of Nigeria (which prohibits and prevents cyber and related crimes) when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold themselves out as persons of foreign nationality, with the intent to gain financial advantage for yourselves and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 and 27 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (As Amended, 2024)."

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

At Friday's proceedings, prosecution counsel, Bilkisu Buhari, informed the court that the prosecution had its witnesses in court and was ready to proceed with trial.

Counsel to the defendant, however, B.A. Omateno told the court that the case was quite tedious and that she might not be able to proceed with the cross-examination.

In his ruling, Justice Dipeolu held that the defence counsel's submission was not

strong enough to discontinue the proceedings.

Consequently, Turaki, led by the prosecution counsel, began his testimony, saying, “I met him at the office, where we work. He is one of our employers. Sometime in mid-November, I was on Jiji.ng looking for a laptop for my cybersecurity studies, so I saw an advert of a job opening for a Customer Service representative role at a Company and the pay was 250k. I clicked on the ad and I was directed to a page with a WhatsApp number, which I was asked to message. I messaged the number and I was added to the group.

“On the group, we were given an address and time to come in for the interview. I went to the address at 7, Oyin Jolayemi in Victoria Island, Lagos for the interview. I was tested for my typing skills and not for my computer proficiency skills. The test was to beat a 30-word mark in one minute; and if that’s done, you are hired.

“I expected follow-up questions, but there was none. I was told to resume the next day and I was informed of the rules and regulations of the company. I was also told of the salary structure as well as accommodation and transportation arrangement. I went back home and packed my stuff to resume at work the next day. “

In his further testimony, he said: “On getting to work, I was given a script and some information needed as a guideline for my role in the company. My employers told me I had to memorise all that I was given as a guideline for my new role. For the next three days, I was made to study the script, which I will use to speak to clients.

“I was given a chat template; a set of instructions containing conversation between Genting International Company Ltd. and a client. The chat was basically befriending the client and gaining the client’s trust. A roadmap of how the chat will go and what to say.

“I was to present myself as a woman to gain the client's trust. I was told not to deviate from the template and adhere strictly to it. After three days of training, they provided me with a desktop computer. We were given numbers to contact. We had a time duration of five days to gain the client's trust, using the template provided. I started chatting with multiple people, mostly men from European countries. I spent about three weeks at the company. I had not gotten the company the number of clients required and I was pressured for it. We were given deadlines and threats of sacking without pay and there were fines. Because of this, I decided to leave the company and when I told my superiors that I wanted to resign, a memo was passed around that if you want to leave you have to give 15 days notice; otherwise, you will leave without getting a dime. “

He also told the court that the company provided them with a model, whose job was to provide them with pictures and videos, so that if they needed to do video calls with the clients, it would be believable.

According to him , “The name of the model assigned to me is Amity Smith. The job of the model was to gain complete trust of the client. Once this has been done, and trust gained, my employers will send a message on the telegram group and tell us to hand off and they take over from us. We stop chatting with the client and move on to the next. Our supervisors are Chinese. I received payment for the duration of my stay, via a bank transfer.

“My employer had armed police presence in the work and accommodation premises. Based on the pressure from my employers, I didn’t think it was wise to flee given the high level of security presence at the premises and I wanted to get paid.

“I wanted to get medication at a time, but the Chinese people told the security men not to let us go.

“When they saw that we were creating a scene, they told the security men to forcefully send us back. We were mostly youths of age 20 to 30. They threatened us and it contributed to my decision to leave. Unfortunately, the EFCC arrested us before I could do that.”

The case was adjourned till March 18, 2025 for continuation of trial.

419 Coalition questions: Again, 419 Coalition question: Who or what entity(ies) control GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED? Where did the company's capital investment come from? Where did the "profits" go? Inquiring minds want to know these things....

8 FEB 2025

Olukoyede Confers Posthumous Award of Bravery on Slain Officer

Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has conferred a Posthumous Award of Bravery on a slain officer of the Commission, Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC, ASE II. Aminu Harisu Sahabi.

He disclosed this in Sokoto on Friday, February 7, 2025 when he paid a condolence visit to the family of the late officer at the Gawon Nama area of Sokoto metropolis, Sokoto State.

Sahabi was killed in cold blood in Awka, Anambra State on January 17, 2025 while on an official assignment to apprehend suspected internet fraudsters.

Accompanied by the Director, Finance and Accounts of the Commission, Commander of the EFCC, CE Ahmed Pate, Ag. Director Sokoto Zonal Directorate, DCE Nwanneka Nwokike and management staff of the EFCC Sokoto zonal Directorate, Olukoyede consoled the bereaved family assuring that the Commission shares in their pains.

"As a Commission, we share in the pains and grief of the loss, but we cannot question the time that the Lord calls us home. The late Aminu was a gallant officer full of promise and in the services of his fatherland when he met with the tragic incident. Indeed, Allah gives and Allah takes".

He further said "I am personally here to assure you that his sacrifice will never be forgotten nor will those accused of the heinous act of his murder be allowed to go free. They must and they will face the full wrath of the law".

"There is nothing on earth that can replace the loss of a loved one but let us be consoled that Allah's timing cannot be questioned and continue to pray for the repose of his soul", he added.

The EFCC boss then conferred a Posthumous Award for Bravery to the late officer and a Condolence Letter on behalf of the EFCC and the Federal Government of Nigeria to the family.

Continuing, the EFCC's boss stressed that, "going forward, I want to assure you that the family will not be forgotten as I will make time to visit intermittently because for us in the EFCC, we are a family. We have finished processing the benefits of the late officer and will be released to the next-of-kin immediately".

Responding on behalf of the late officer's family, Justice Mohammed Lawal Shuaibu JCA, thanked the Executive Chairman and his team for the visit. He commended the Commission for its intervention in conveying the late officer's corpse home for burial.

His words "I was literally on the phone with the Chairman consecutively after the incident and we also saw the delegation of the EFCC during the burial of our son led by the Secretary to the Commission".

He added "As a family, we also express our gratitude to the family for naming a building at the EFCC Academy, Abuja after our son to immortalise his sacrifice".

Upon arrival at the EFCC's Sokoto Zonal Directorate, Olukoyede inspected a guard of honour and held meetings with officers of the Commission.

The press release contains photos:

[olukoyede-confers-posthumous-award-of-bravery-on-slain-officer](#)

6 FEB 2025

EFCC Arraigns Additional Nine Chinese for Alleged Cyber-Terrorism, Internet Fraud in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, February 6, 2025, arraigned nine Chinese and a company, Genting International Co. Ltd., before Justice C.J. Aneke of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

The defendants are Su Dong Fu, Zheng Xian Tao, Wang Shi Long, Pan Cai Qi, Ting Liao, Fan Jia, Feng Li Cani, Lu Yong Yao and Yang Chen Cheng

They are members of the syndicate of 792 alleged crypto currency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested on December 10, 2024 in Lagos during a surprise operation tagged “Eagle Flush Operation” by operatives of the EFCC.

The suspects were arraigned on separate charges bordering on alleged cybercrimes, cyber-terrorism, possession of documents containing false pretences and identity theft, among others.

One of the counts reads: “That you, ZENG XIAN TAO (AKA A TAO AND ZHOU TAO) AND GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED, sometime in December 2024 at Lagos, Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems used for the purpose of destabilizing and destroying the economy and social structure of Nigeria and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, 2015 (as Amended, 2024) and Section 2(3) of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022.”

They all pleaded “not guilty” to the charges when they were read to them.

In view of their pleas, prosecution counsel, M.K. Bashir, prayed the court for trial dates and for the defendants to be remanded in the correctional centre.

Justice Aneke adjourned the matter till February 21, and March 7, 2025, for trial and also remanded the defendants at the Ikoyi Correctional Centre.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arraigns-additional-nine-chinese-for-alleged-cyber-terrorism-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition question: Who or what entity(ies) control GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED?

4 FEB 2025

Again, EFCC Arraigns 11 Chinese for Alleged Cyber-Terrorism, Internet Fraud in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, arraigned 11 Chinese and a company, Genting International Co. Ltd., before Justice C.J. Aneke of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

The defendants are: Liu Ke Fan, Huang Hai Tao, Zhang Kian Feng, Wua Wang and Xiao Xin. Others are: Wang Hong Lin, Wu Yong An (a.k.a Zenga Niu), Chen Yuan (a.k.a Xiao Doa), Chen Dong Dong (a.k.a Cun Zhao) Weng Mao Rong, (a.k.a A Xiang and Wang) and Xiong Wei (a.k.a Xiao Bai).

They are members of the syndicate of 792 alleged cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested on December 10, 2024 in Lagos during a surprise operation tagged “Eagle Flush Operation” by operatives of the EFCC.

The suspects were arraigned on separate charges bordering on alleged cybercrimes, cyber-terrorism, possession of documents containing false pretence and identity theft, among others.

One of the counts reads: "That you, LUI KE FAN (AKA LINA, LIU CHEN), HUANG HAI TAO, ZHANG JIAN FENG, WU A WANG and XIAO XIN, sometime in December 2024 at Lagos, Nigeria, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court, willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems used for the purpose of destabilizing and destroying the economy and social structure of Nigeria and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act. 2015 (as Amended, 2024) and Section 2 (3) of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022".

Another count reads : "That you, LUI KE FAN (AKA LINA, LIU CHEN), sometime in December 2024 at Lagos, Nigeria, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to gain advantage for yourself, and members of your criminal syndicate group, specialized in romance scam, crypto currency fraud, cyber terrorism amongst others, domiciled at No. 7, Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria did fraudulently impersonate a 28-year-old "Lina", from the United States of America living in Germany, by holding yourself out as such to unsuspecting victims via a fraudulent profile on your company assigned Maya desktop computer and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2) (b) and punishable under Section 22 (2)(iv) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc Act 2015".

Another count reads: "That you, WANG GONG LIN (AKA WANG JING LIN), sometime in January 2025 at Lagos, Nigeria , within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, willfully gave false information to officers of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in the course of investigation when you were being questioned for being part of a criminal syndicate group, specialized in romance scam, crypto currency fraud, cyber terrorism amongst others; and in order to mislead them, you falsely represented your name as WANG JING LIN and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 39(2) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004 and punishable under Section 39(2)(b) of the same Act."

They all pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to them.

In view of their pleas, the prosecution counsel, M.K. Bashir, prayed the court for trial dates and for the defendants to be remanded in the correctional centre.

Justice Aneke adjourned the matter till February 21, and March 7, 2025 for trial and remanded the defendants at the Ikoyi correctional centres.

The press release contains photos:

[again-efcc-arraigns-11-chinese-for-alleged-cyber-terrorism-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition question: Who or what entity(ies) control GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED?

3 FEB 2025

Court Orders Interim Forfeiture of Syndicate's \$222,729.86 Digital Wallet Assets

Justice A. Owoeye of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on Monday, February 3, 2025, ordered the interim forfeiture of digital wallet assets valued at \$222,729.86 to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The digital wallet assets were recovered from an alleged syndicate of 792 cryptocurrency investment and romance fraudsters who were arrested on December 10, 2024 by operatives of the the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, during a surprise operation at 7, Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The Judge gave the order, following an ex parte application filed and moved by the EFCC through its lawyer, Zeenat Atiku, pursuant to Section 44 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution and Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud Act 2006.

Moving the application for interim forfeiture of the recovered digital wallet assets, Atiku argued that the Commission had received intelligence about a large-scale fraud involving foreign nationals operating in Lagos.

According to her, the syndicate financed its operations through a company, Genting International Co. Limited (GICL).

Atiku further submitted that the digital wallet assets were “reasonably suspected to be proceeds of an unlawful activity.”

After listening to the EFCC counsel, Justice Owoeye ordered the interim forfeiture of the digital asset wallets .

The Judge also directed the EFCC to publish the order in a national newspaper to allow anyone with an interest in the digital wallet assets to appear before the court within 14 days to show cause why it should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government.

The court adjourned the matter till March 7, 2025 for a "compliance report".

[court-orders-interim-forfeiture-of-syndicates-222-729-86-digital-wallet-assets](#)

419 Coalition question: Who or what entity(ies) control GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED?

3 FEB 2025

EFCC Arraigns 29 Chinese, 10 Filipinos, Three Others for Alleged Internet Fraud in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, February 3, 2025, arraigned 29 Chinese, 10 Filipinos, one Malaysian, one Indonesian and one Pakistani before separate Federal High Courts sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

They were arraigned alongside a company, Genting International Co. Ltd., before Justices Ayokunle Faji ; D.I. Dipeolu; Alexander Owoeye and C.J. Aneke, respectively.

The suspects are members of the syndicate of 792 alleged cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested on December 19, 2024, in Lagos during a surprise operation tagged “Eagle Flush Operation” by operatives of the EFCC.

They were arraigned on separate charges bordering on alleged cybercrimes, cyber-terrorism, impersonation, possession of documents containing false pretence and identity theft, among others.

The defendants are: Zhang Hua Zhai; Chen Xin; Li Zhen Peng; Guo Long Long ; Ren Jia Wen; Zhang Jian; Zhao Ying Bin; Yu Zi, (a.k.a. Wei Xue Huan); Zhang Yang; Wang Zhi Cheng; Cherry De Leon (a.k.a. Yeah De Leon); Khurram Shanzad; Fernand Fu Fang (a.k.a. Kim); Tan Soon Kar; Rex Jose Dilag (a.k.a. Madison); Jamal Polea; Kamilu Jayne Gongzalez (a.k.a. Jam Galanza); Hannah Jaramillo (a.k.a. Max Deleon); Danica Manulit (a.k.a. Dan Ruiz); Vera Dela Cris (a.k.a. Nina Vera Gonzal); Joey Gracia; Beverlyn Gumayo Casino (a.k.a. Veb Sumayo) and Tricia Jenlylyn Castro (a.k.a. T. J. Castrol).

Others are: An Hongxu; Shitou Shizilong; Pan Jiong; Wanq Jia Qi; Huang Xiao Liang; Guo Giang; Wen Zong Xu; Zhon Kun Li; Huang Ren Jian; Li Jin; Deng Wen Qiang; Lu Yi Liang; Pan Cai Yu; Peng Li Jain (a.k.a. Han Li Jaun); He Kun; Zhao Jin Rong; Lin Hao Bo; Chen Fusheng and Xiang Bing.

One of the counts reads: “That you, ZHANG HUA ZHAI and GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED, on or about the 18th of December 2024 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems organised to seriously destabilise the constitutional structure of Nigeria (which prohibits and prevents cyber and related crimes) when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold themselves out as persons of foreign nationality, with the intent to gain financial advantage for yourselves

and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 and 27 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (As Amended, 2024).”

Another count reads: “That you, VIERA DELA CRUZ (A.K.A NINA VIERA GONZAL) & GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LTD., sometime in December 2024, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems organized to seriously destabilize the constitutional structure of Nigeria (which prohibits and prevents cyber related crimes) when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold themselves out as persons of foreign nationality, with the intent to gain a financial advantage for yourselves and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18

of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (As amended 2024)”.

Another count reads: “That you, Shitou Shizilong and Genting International Co. Limited, on or about the 11th December, 2024 at No.7, Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island, Ikoyi, Lagos, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, wilfully caused to be accessed, a computer system which was organized to seriously destabilize the economic and social structure of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, by procuring and employing several Nigerian youths for identity theft and other computer related fraud, and you thereby committed an offence, contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition and Prevention, etc.) Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2015 (as amended).”

Another count reads: “That you, PENG LI JAUN A.K.A HAN LI JAUN and GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED, sometime in December, 2024 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, wilfully caused to be accessed, computer systems organised to seriously destabilise the economic and social structure of Nigeria (which prohibits and prevents cyber and related crimes) when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold themselves out as persons of foreign nationality, with the intent to gain financial advantage for yourselves and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (As Amended, 2024).”

They each pleaded not guilty to the offences when they were read to them.

In view of their pleas, prosecution counsel, L.P. Aso, M.K. Bashir, N. K. Ukoha, T.J. Banjo, M. S. Owede, B.B. Buhari, C.C.Okezie, H.U. Kofarnaisa and Z.B.Atiku, respectively prayed the court for trial dates and for the defendants to be remanded in the appropriate correctional centres.

Justice Faji adjourned the matter till February 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 and 2025.

Justice Dipeolu adjourned the matter till February 7, 15, 21, 24 and 28, 2025; Justice Owoeye adjourned the matter till February 20, 21, 24, 28 and March 18, 2025; and Justice Aneke adjourned the matter till March 7, 2025, for trial and remanded the defendants at both Ikoyi and Kirikiri Correctional Centres.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arraigns-29-chinese-10-filipinos-three-others-for-alleged-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition question: Who or what entity(ies) control GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED?

31 JAN 2025

EFCC Arraigns 11 Chinese, One Filipino for Alleged Internet Fraud In Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday, January 31, 2025, arraigned 11 Chinese, one Filipino and a company, Genting International Co. Ltd, before Justice D.I. Dipeolu of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

The defendants are: Wang Zheng Ming, Li Yin Hui, Xian Hong Will, Zhang Xiao Lei, Long Zhao Ming, Guo Xiao Fei, Yang Sheng, Wang Zheng Feng, Chen Wenyuan, Liu San Hua, Luo Jia You and Rheim Dela Vega.

They are members of the syndicate of 792 alleged cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested on December 19, 2024 in Lagos during a surprise

operation tagged “Eagle Flush Operation” by operatives of the EFCC.

The suspects were arraigned on separate charges bordering on alleged cybercrimes, cyber-terrorism, possession of documents containing false pretence and identity theft, among others.

One of the counts reads: “That you, LI YIN HUI and GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED, on or about the 18th of December 2024 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, willfully caused to be accessed computer systems organised to seriously destabilise the constitutional structure of Nigeria (which prohibits and prevents cyber and related crimes) when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold themselves out as persons of foreign nationality, with the intent to gain financial advantage for yourselves and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 and 27 of the Cybercrimes Prohibition, Prevention, Etc Act, 2015 (As Amended,2024).”

Another count reads: "That you, LUO JIA YOU (AKA A. YOU) sometime in December 2024 at Lagos, Nigeria, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, willfully gave false information to officers of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in the course of investigation when you were being questioned for being part of a criminal syndicate group, specialized in Romance scam, crypto currency fraud, cyber terrorism amongst others; and in order to mislead them, you falsely represented your name as A. YOU and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 39(2) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004 and punishable under Section 39(2) (b) of the same Act.”

Another charge reads: “That you, LONG SHAO MING A.K.A LING YANG, sometime in December 2024 in Lagos , within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, with intent to defraud, had in your possession documents containing false pretence, wherein you held yourself out as 'Linda Maureen', a citizen of the United States of America, which document you knew to be false and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and punishable under 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other fraud related Offences Act, 2006. “

They each pleaded “not guilty” to the offences when they were read to them.

In view of their pleas, prosecution counsel, L.P. Aso, M. K.Bashir, T. J .Banjo, N. K . Ukoha and B. Buhari-Bala, prayed the court for trial dates and for the defendants to be remanded in the appropriate Correctional facilities.

Justice Dipeolu adjourned the matter till 7, 14 and 21 February, 2025 for trial and remanded the defendants at the Ikoyi and Kirikiri Correctional Centres.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-11-chinese-one-filipino-for-alleged-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

419 Coalition question: Who or what entity(ies) control GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED?

27 JAN 2027

From NBC News(US)by way of Yahoo News(US):

Nigerian man extradited to U.S. accused of 'sextortion' of South Carolina teen who died by suicide

A Nigerian man who was indicted in connection with the "sextortion" of a South Carolina teen who died by suicide has been extradited to the United States to face prosecution, the Justice Department said Monday.

Gavin Guffey, 17, died by suicide in 2022 after, prosecutors allege, Hassanbunhussein Abolore Lawal extorted him using "compromising photos," the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina announced.

A lawsuit filed in South Carolina in 2023 alleges Lawal posed as a young woman and coerced Guffey into sending him sexually explicit content in 2022. Lawal then threatened to leak the content if Guffey didn't send him money, it says.

Lawal is alleged to have sent harassing messages to Guffey and some of his relatives, threatening to leak the pictures and ruin their public reputation unless they sent him money, court documents say.

Guffey was the son of state Rep. Brandon Guffey. After his son's death, Brandon Guffey went on to sponsor a bill known as "Gavin's Law," which made sexual extortion a felony offense in the state and an aggravated felony "if the victim is a minor, vulnerable adult, or if the victim suffers bodily injury or death directly related to the crime," according to Gov. Henry McMaster's office. McMaster signed the bill into law in August 2023.

Brandon Guffey did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A grand jury returned an indictment for Lawal in October 2023, according to the U.S. attorney's office. He was charged with child exploitation resulting in death, child pornography distribution, coercion and enticement of a minor, cyberstalking resulting in death and interstate threat with intent to extort, the indictment said.

On Friday, FBI Columbia field office agents took custody of Lawal in Lagos, Nigeria, and conducted the extradition with help from Nigerian law enforcement authorities. He was arraigned Monday in federal court in Columbia.

"We will not allow predators who target our children to hide behind a keyboard or across the ocean," said the U.S. attorney for South Carolina, Adair Ford Boroughs. "Today we honor Gavin's life and continue our fight against sextortion by holding this defendant accountable."

If he is found guilty, Lawal could spend life in prison. He would also face "mandatory minimum prison sentences on multiple counts," including a mandatory 30-year sentence for the charge of child exploitation resulting in death, according to the U.S. attorney's office. Lawal might also be ordered to pay the Guffey family restitution for the losses in the scheme.

The investigation, arrest and extradition were a partnership between law enforcement in the United States and Nigeria, and the case is part of Project Safe Childhood, "a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse," the U.S. attorney's office said.

The article includes a photo:

[nigerian-man-extradited](#)

25 JAN 2025

EFCC Names Academy Building after Slain Officer

As a gesture of immortalizing a slain officer of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC, ASE1 Aminu Sahabi Salisu, the Commission has named the administrative block of its Academy in Karu, Abuja after him.

Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede disclosed this in Abuja on Saturday, January 25, 2025 while addressing staff of the Commission at the Annual Rewards and Recognition Ceremony held at the EFCC's Academy.

According to him, Salisu paid the supreme price in the service of the nation and his memory should be kept alive. "We are saddened by the loss of our officer while on official assignment. He was a gallant officer and to this effect, the administrative block of the Academy is hereby named after him", he said.

At the ceremony, 36 officers of the Commission were rewarded in different categories.

The categories include section with highest recovery, section with highest conviction, lawyer with highest conviction, best departmental staff, best zonal directorate, staff of the year, among others.

Commenting on the winners of various rewards, the EFCC boss stated that "I want to congratulate all the winners for their roles. I can only charge you all not to rest on our oars. Excellence is not about doing things right once in a while, it is about doing things right all the time. You need to continue to offer the best as the reward for hard work is more work". Olukoyede also disclosed that 900 staff had been promoted as well as the reinstatement of life and property insurance for staff.

He used the occasion to warn officers of the Commission against compromise of the core values of the EFCC, stressing that "the internal cleansing going on in the Commission will spare no one".

Among recipients of the rewards, Chief Superintendent of the EFCC, CSE Alvan Gurumnaan emerged Staff of the Year while the Sokoto Zonal Directorate emerged the Best Directorate of the Year. The rest are: Bitrus Yakubu, Katmi Kefas, Halilu Dauda, Nenman Danladi, Oluwakemi Aaron, Yusuf Umar, Michael Adukwu Uchechika, David Solomon, among others.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-names-academy-building-after-slain-officer](#)

24 JAN 2025

South-East Students to EFCC: “We are Sorry for the Loss of your Officer”

The National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), South-East Zone have condoled with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on the loss of one of its operatives, Aminu Sahabi Salisu, stressing that his death caused them grief and regret.

Salisu, an Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC, ASE11 was killed in cold blood while on a legitimate duty by a suspected internet fraudster, Joshua Chukwubueze Ikechukwu on January 17, 2025.

The students expressed their grief and solidarity with the Commission on Friday, January 24, 2025 when a delegation, led by Comrade Charles Obinna Ijeomah paid a condolence visit to the EFCC’s Executive Chairman, Mr. Ola Olukoyede at the Commission’s corporate headquarters, Abuja.

While pledging the collaboration, cooperation and support of the entire Southeast students to the Commission, Ijeomah stated that “As the coordinator of the National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS), Southeast, the onus falls on me and my colleagues here to ensure that we sanitize and give proper orientation to our students not to indulge in anything that has to do with internet crime and we have been succeeding.

“We are very sorry for the incident that happened lately in Awka. Maybe you may have seen our comments, our stand, we condemned it. An operative was shot in the process of carrying out his official duty. Whatever that is going on in Southeast is being controlled by students and I am their leader. I cannot watch and see things go wrong. That is why we condemned the killing of that operative.

He stated further that, “we are here to let the authority of EFCC understand that we commiserate with you and to tell you not to judge the Southeast with what happened. Such acts are not in our blood. It is not in our nature. We are hardworking people. We don't indulge in crime. Anybody that indulges in crime in the Southeast is not a true son of Igbo. We know how to make money but this idea of being in one room with a device to trick someone is not in our blood.

“We are sad for the loss of the operative. We say sorry to the Enugu Zonal Command and to the EFCC authority for what happened. We assure you that such a thing can never happen again. Our aim of coming here is to let EFCC know that Southeast students are with them and that we're going to partner with you more to educate our students in the Southeast region to avoid any kind of internet crime. We are here to bring you the news that we are 100 percent open to any form of

interaction, collaboration and cooperation between the students of South-east and the EFCC. We are promising you total collaboration. By the time I get to Enugu after this meeting, we will be visiting the Zonal Command and pay a courtesy visit there too to let them know that they are not alone, that we are with them. We are the people controlling the youth in the streets of the South-east.”

Speaking further, Ijeomah disclosed that the union had programmes and proposals that when implemented, will bring the EFCC closer to university campuses in the Southeast and help to further sensitize the students. “We are promising you that we are going to work with you. We want to let EFCC know that this also provides an opportunity for the Commission to come and give orientation to our students in the Southeast. We will welcome you with an open heart”, he said.

The Commission Secretary, Mr. Muhammad Hammajoda who received the delegation on behalf of the Executive Chairman expressed appreciation to the students on the condolence visit, noting that “every one of us is a stakeholder in the fight against corruption directly or indirectly. We don't have any other country apart from Nigeria. You spent your personal money and time to be with us for you to understand what we are doing and to also be part of us. We appreciate you and we will continue to appreciate you. We will support you in trying to disseminate anti-corruption information.”

While urging the students to take advantage of the federal government’s Student’s Loan Scheme, he promised that the Commission will identify with all the noble programmes of the students in the zone if invited. “We will be there for you in all the programmes that you outlined. Please give us an invitation. We will be there. We will be there to be part of you.”

Hammajoda encouraged the students’ leaders on their crusade against students’ involvement in internet crime. "We are sinking day by day with corruption. So let's educate ourselves that this cyber crime will not take you anywhere. All of us are victims. Nobody has protection against it. Anyone can be attacked. We have a very sound youth population with a very high IQ (intelligence quotient) and ingenuity to do many things," he said.

While lending his voice against youths' involvement in internet crime, Chief of Staff to the Executive Chairman, Commander of the EFCC, CE Michael Nzekwe noted that “cybercrime has done too much damage to us as a country. If you check and find out how much it affected us, you'll be shocked. Internationally, the image of the country has been battered. When you travel outside the country they look at you in a certain way with your green passport. So, cybercrime is just one thing that all of us have to put our hands together and be deliberate and intentional to see that we eliminate. EFCC has done so much in ensuring that.”

Besides leveraging on NELFUND, Nzekwe reminded the students of the Credit Scheme of the federal government as a handy window of opportunity for meeting their needs. “There's also the credit scheme that is available for students that this government has put in place. So take that as a message to your students that they can assess this fund and the issue of poverty will not even arise.”

Rather than diminish, he noted that the trend of internet crime is rather skyrocketing in the Southeast. “You said that in the Southeast that you are hard working people and traders, but can I be honest with you? the level of yahoo yahoo in the Southeast and other cybercrimes has skyrocketed, and it has not just skyrocketed, it has gotten to the level which they call yahoo plus. They have become ritualists and kidnappers. Why would you have a gun in the house and open fire on someone on a legitimate duty? We are glad that you realized that this is wrong. You have also seen our own Press Release. We have said it very clearly and with a strong voice, that EFCC will not condone that or tolerate that from anybody, whoever the person is, never again.”

The press release includes a photo of slain Officer Aminu Sahabi Salisu:

[south-east-students-to-efcc-we-are-sorry-for-the-loss-of-your-officer](#)

23 JAN 2025

EFCC’s Works Impressive - US Director

The United States Director of Narcotics and Law Enforcement in the Nigerian Embassy,

Candace Spradley, has expressed delight with the efforts and successes of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in its crusade against economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption, describing them as impressive.

She made the observation in Abuja on Thursday, January 23, 2025 when she led a delegation of officials of Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) on a courtesy visit to the Executive Chairman, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede at the Commission's corporate headquarters, Abuja.

"I am so pleased to be with you here, today. We've come just to greet you. I'm quite new on my assignment. I've been in the country for about five months now. However, earlier on in my career with the Department of State, I learned about the EFCC and all of the very impressive work that you all have been doing to advance anti-corruption and financial crime efforts. So, I've known for a very long time about the work of your organization and it was part of the reason that I chose to come here because of the very strong and impressive cooperation from EFCC and similar government bodies in the U.S.

Continuing, Spradley stated that, "I should just start by saying congratulations to you for the impressive work that the organization has done under your tenure and certainly the name that it has made for the government of Nigeria in Washington. It is an outstanding and impressive work that has a very far reach",

She also sought stronger collaboration "on issues of cybercrime, asset forfeiture and recovery, and certainly on issues of anti-corruption and transparency which are top in mind for the US Embassy and a priority for our Ambassador here".

Olukoyede who expressed appreciation on behalf of the staff and management of the EFCC, noted that there was a convergence in the mandate of the Commission and that of INL and appealed for synergy between the two organizations.

"The mandates that are set before you and ours are quite similar. There is a relationship between dealing in narcotics and money laundering. One of our key mandates is to fight money laundering and money laundering has presumably become one of the biggest financial crimes with global dimension. That is why it has become very imperative for the international community to come together and form synergy to fight these crimes. So it is important for us to work together".

The EFCC's boss further stated that the Commission had robust synergy with the American Embassy and FBI. "We have a very strong partnership and we plan to build on that in the area of capacity building. The relationship has been of mutual benefits and we will continue to build on that," he said. Olukoyede also drew the attention of the delegation to the growing involvement of expatriates in internet fraud in Nigeria. He lamented the trend and vowed that the country would be made inhospitable for such anti-social expatriates.

"You are aware of the recent international crime that was busted in Nigeria that involved close to 200 foreigners. You now know who has been perpetrating cybercrime in our system using the identity of Nigerians. That goes to show you that these crimes we are fighting have international dimensions to them. Investigations have revealed that some of these guys were dislodged from some parts of South Asia and they are now looking for a safe haven within the African Continent from where they would be attacking targets across the world. Nigeria is not going to create that environment for them to survive. We will deploy intelligence-driven operations to get them out of our system", he said.

The press release contains a photo:

[efccs-works-impressive-us-director](#)

419 Coalition comment: We'd also like to see "stronger collaboration" with various governments and Counter-419 NGOs on "issues of cybercrime, asset forfeiture and recovery... and transparency". We'd also like to note that our interpretation of the mass arrest of 200 or so foreign nationals among the recent arrest of 700 419ers made in a high profile office building in Lagos differs a bit from the interpretation in the last paragraph in the article. Our view is that the 419 operation targeted was operating much as most multi-national corporations do from their home offices. That is, foreign nationals and native speakers are customarily hired for sales, customer service, and other functions related to countries in which the multi-national wants to do, or is doing, business. In short, our view is that the foreigners were most likely Staff of a Nigerian run 419 cartel,

rather than the Operators of said cartel who merely employed Nigerian nationals as staff. Our view is that more likely it was Nigerian 419ers who were the Ogas of the operation, who recruited and employed the foreigners as staff... rather than vice-versa, as asserted in the above article.

22 JAN 2025

EFCC Arrests 37 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Awka

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC have arrested 37 (Thirty-seven) suspected internet fraudsters.

The all-male suspects were arrested in a sting operation at Commissioners' Quarters, Dr. J. O. Ukwutinife Close, Ifite, Awka, Anambra State, following credible intelligence linking them to fraudulent internet activities.

Items recovered from them include six exotic cars, laptops and mobile phones.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-37-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-awka](#)

19 JAN 2025

EFCC Condemns False Narratives on Loss of Officer

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, expresses grief on the loss of one of its officers, Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC, ASE11 Aminu Sahabi Salisu who was killed in cold blood while on a legitimate duty on January 17, 2025 by a suspected internet fraudster, Joshua Chukwubueze Ikechukwu.

Additionally, the Commission views with great concern the irresponsible, callous, inhuman and outrageous narratives being circulated on social media on the whys and wherefores of the fatal accident. It is heinous to reduce the death of a gallant officer who was carrying out patriotic and official duties to social media razzmatazz.

More worrisome is the fact that some faceless commentators are pitching their tents with an alleged criminal who unleashed terror on officers of the EFCC in their line of duty. There is no justification whatsoever to rationalise a murderous act. The milk of human kindness demands that a grieving family, Commission and nation should be spared the shenanigans of false narratives and conjectures on the death of the slain officer.

Salisu, alongside other investigators of the EFCC, were at Dr. J.O. Ukwutinife Close, Ifite, Awka, Anambra State, to arrest some suspected internet fraudsters in the early hours of January 17. The operation was duly documented at the Anambra State Command Headquarters and Area Command of the Nigeria Police in line with operational protocols.

The operation was initially smooth sailing with 37 suspected internet fraudsters already arrested at a two-storey building housing Ikechukwu and other occupants of the house.

However, Ikechukwu, who sighted the investigators through a CCTV Camera mounted at his doorpost and who also confessed sighting them, declined to open his door for the investigators who politely demanded entrance to his apartment. Defying all the introduction and physical sighting of the investigators, he resorted to firing shots at them and killed Salisu in the process and wounded another officer detailed to conduct a search in

his apartment.

Preliminary investigations showed that Ikechukwu was involved in coding and online medical supplies of doubtful legitimacy. Two laptops, ipads, several recording devices were recovered from his apartment and his involvement in internet fraud is already established. Though currently in police custody owing to the murderous dimension of his case, the Commission will surely bring him to trial.

The EFCC also wishes to alert the public that the activities of internet fraudsters are becoming patently hazardous to public safety and security. Intelligence has shown that these criminals are carrying arms, involved in kidnapping, banditry, ritual killings and other deadly acts. The public should not fold its arms or allow itself to be deceived that they are mere “Yahoo boys and girls”.

As for the EFCC, every subsequent attack on any of its officers will be met with the force of the law. The Commission will not fold its arms and allow any of its officers to be killed again in cold blood. As a law enforcement agency of repute, the EFCC is unrelenting in riding the nation of internet fraud and other acts of corruption.

While mourning the loss of its officer who paid the supreme price in the service of the nation, the Commission appreciates the invaluable support, condolences and prompt response of sister agencies and well-meaning individuals standing shoulder to shoulder with it at this trying time.

[efcc-condemns-false-narratives-on-loss-of-officer](#)

419 Coalition note: We express our condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Officer Salisu. 419ing is not always a nonviolent crime. Victims have been killed in the past. It was only a matter of time before an Officer was killed. Counter-419ing is a dangerous operation where EFCC officers and counter-419 operations often deal with powerful and dangerous 419 criminals. We are very sorry that Officer Salisu gave his final measure while fighting the good fight. We thank him for his service and devotion to duty, and honour his name. Coordinator, 419 Coalition

17 JAN 2025

EFCC Arrests 25 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Yahoo Academy

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday January 16, 2025 arrested 25 suspected internet fraudsters in a cybercrime training centre in Benin City, Edo state

The suspects’ arrest at their hideout was triggered by credible intelligence that indicated the apartment being used as a yahoo academy or training school for internet-related fraud and other fraudulent activities.

Items recovered from the suspects include six exotic cars, laptops and phones.

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

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-25-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-yahoo-academy](#)

16 JAN 2025

Court Jails Fake Spiritualist for Internet Fraud in Ilorin

Justice Mahmud Abdulgafar of the Kwara State High Court, sitting in Ilorin on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, convicted and sentenced one Odeyemi Hammed Oluwaseun to one year imprisonment for internet fraud.

The convict, a self-styled spiritualist was prosecuted by the Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on a two-count charge that bordered on internet fraud, impersonation and obtaining by false pretences.

Count one of the charges reads: "That you, Odeyemi Hammed Oluwaseun, sometime in December, 2023 in Ilorin, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonestly induced one Bose to send \$3200.00 (Three Thousand Two Hundred Dollars) worth of gift cards to you, with the impression that the same would be used to diabolically influence her ex-husband to return and marry her, while you pretended and represented yourself to be one Lord Hill, a female spiritualist with email account hillor674@gmail.com, and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 324 of the same Penal Code."

Count two reads: "That you, Odeyemi Hammed Oluwaseun, between August, 2023 to September, 2023 in Ilorin within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonestly induced one Schneider Alina to send \$4500.00 (Four Thousand, Five Hundred Dollar) worth of gift cards to you, with the impression that the same would be used to diabolically control her ex-boyfriend to return and marry her, while you represented yourself to be a female spiritualist with Instagram account _Visions_by_Tendo_12 and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 324 of the same Penal Code"

He pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to him, following which prosecution counsel, Sesan Ola reviewed the facts of the case, tendered the convict's extra-judicial statements and evidence, including the sum of \$1000 (One Thousand United States Dollars) recovered from him and prayed the court to convict and sentence him as charged.

Convinced that the prosecution has proven its case beyond reasonable doubt, Justice Abdulgafar sentenced Oluwaseun to six months suspended jail term on each of the counts, and ordered that the sum of \$1000 (One Thousand United States Dollars), iPhone 15 and 2008 Toyota Camry car recovered from him be forfeited to the federal government.

Oluwaseun, a 23-year-old man that hails from Oyo State, defrauded his victims on the internet by posing as an American-based female spiritualist with powers to cause jilted women and estranged wives to regain the affection of their men.

The press release contains a photo of the convict:

[court-jails-fake-spiritualist-for-internet-fraud-in-ilorin](https://www.efcc.gov.ng/court-jails-fake-spiritualist-for-internet-fraud-in-ilorin)

14 JAN 2025

EFCC Arrests Seven Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 arrested seven suspected internet fraudsters in Benin City, Edo State.

The suspects were arrested based on credible intelligence on their alleged involvement in internet- related fraud.

Items recovered from them include one Lexus car, laptops and phones.

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

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-seven-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](https://www.efcc.gov.ng/efcc-arrests-seven-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city)

10 JAN 2025

EFCC Arrests 105 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abuja

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, acting on intelligence on emerging internet crimes involving foreigners, on Thursday, January 9, 2025 broke another syndicate of fraudsters specializing in hotel review job scam, targeting mostly United Kingdom victims.

They arrested 105 suspects comprising four Chinese and 101 Nigerians at Naka Hall Plaza in Abutu Garba Street, Gudu, Abuja. 100 compact Work Stations were recovered from the suspects.

How the Fraud Works:

Hotel Review Job Scam is a globally- entrenched internet-related fraud that is newly appearing on the Nigerian space.

The modus operandi involves Chinese who usually recruit local and computer-savvy Nigerians as Customer Service Representatives.

The Representatives are made to work on a prepared template of criminality online. They are given identities and names usually foreign, through which they chat with expatriates. The crime involves making false representation to victims to win their trust to engage in hotel ratings with promises of \$5 for every hotel that is reviewed. As the victims get paid, they are encouraged to review more hotels and the payment is increased to \$10 per rating. After a long while, the victim is encouraged to make bookings in any of the rated hotels for as much as \$500 and that the company would pay back with chunky interest into a crypto wallet bearing their names. After making bookings, the victim would not be able to open the wallet and his or her money is lost.

The fraud is an intricate mechanism of defrauding foreigners and it is targeted at victims in Europe and other parts of the world.

We are working with other law enforcement agencies across the world to dig deeper into the global dimensions involved in this crime.

Abuja Arrest a Further Intelligence Connected to the Lagos 792 Fraudsters

The EFCC achieved this latest breakthrough barely a month after 792 suspected investment and internet fraudsters were arrested by operatives of the Commission on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. They were arrested at an edifice known as Big Leaf Building at No 7, Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos. This is almost concluded and the suspects will be charged to court in the coming days.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-four-chinese-101-others-for-suspected-internet-fraud-in-abuja](#)

10 JAN 2025

From Vanguard(NG) newspaper via Nigeriaworld(US and NG) website:

Nigerian man jailed 11 years in US for money laundering, passport fraud

A 37-year-old Nigerian man, Chukwunonso Obiora, has been sentenced to 11 years in prison for his involvement in separate criminal schemes, including laundering fraud proceeds and obtaining a U.S. passport through false statements.

The announcement via a statement was made on January 5, 2025, by U.S. Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Michael J. Krol, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations New England, through the U.S. Department of Justice.

He was arrested in October 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia, on a criminal complaint and was held pending trial. In January 2024, he was indicted for his crimes.

The statement reads, "Between at least as early as March 2021 and May 2023, Obiora and several co-conspirators agreed to receive and withdraw the proceeds of business email compromises (BECs) from bank accounts that they controlled, and to direct those funds to other co-conspirators, in exchange for a cut of the criminal proceeds. BECs are a type of fraud scheme that targets companies that make regular business payments by wire. Cybercriminals use email to impersonate trusted parties to the payments in order to trick the victim companies into sending money to bank accounts controlled by participants in the scheme.

"The defendant's money laundering conspiracy, of which he admitted to being a leader and organizer, involved obtaining individual victims' means of identification and to create fake driver's licenses, incorporate businesses and open bank accounts in the victims' names; providing the bank accounts to co-conspirators involved in the BEC schemes as accounts to which victims could be tricked into sending wires; withdrawing money quickly from the bank accounts once the wire transfers arrived, before victim companies learned that they had been tricked into sending money; and depositing the proceeds into other accounts, and wiring BEC scheme proceeds to the defendant and others in Nigeria, China and elsewhere.

"The defendant and his co-conspirators took steps to conceal the existence of the conspiracy, including by forging business invoices and writing false memos on checks to suggest that the BEC scheme proceeds deposited into Destination Accounts were legitimate business revenues; and by making false statements to banks regarding the nature of the BEC scheme proceeds that were deposited into Destination Accounts.

"The defendant and his U.S.-based co-conspirators shared at least as much as 40 percent of the deposited BEC scheme proceeds as payment for their roles in the conspiracy. In just two-plus years, the defendant and his co-conspirators engaged in at least \$6.5 million in financial transactions involving the proceeds of BEC schemes.

"After immigration authorities removed the defendant from the United States in December 2021, he agreed with a close relative who is an American citizen to obtain a U.S. passport in the relative's name, which the defendant could use to re-enter the United States illegally. The relative reported his passport lost or stolen and, in May 2023, applied for a new passport at a U.S. Post Office in Watertown, Mass. The sworn application had the relative's name on it, but a picture of the defendant. The relative sent the issued passport to the defendant, who, in October 2023, used the passport to travel from Nigeria to Detroit, Mich., where the defendant presented himself as his relative at the U.S. border."

The investigation received critical support from the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service and its Criminal Investigations Division. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Seth B. Kosto, Chief of the Securities, Financial & Cyber Fraud Unit.

The article contains photos:

nigeriaworld.com/news/source/2025/jan/10/30

8 JAN 2025

Billionaire Internet Fraudster Bags Two Years in Abuja

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction of one Chima Hyginus Nkwocha, a.k.a "Young Billionaire," for cheating by impersonation and money laundering.

He was jailed on Tuesday, December 31, 2024.

Nkwocha was arraigned before Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja, on a two-count charge bordering on cheating by impersonation

and money laundering.

One of the counts read: "That you, Chima Hyginus Nkwocha (AKA Frank Nils, Frank Cobert, Frank Brown & Chettot), sometime in 2022 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently impersonate Frank Nils, Frank Cobert, Frank Brown, and Chiress Riffatt on Gmail and Google Voice using the Gmail addresses frankcorbett272@gmail.com and chriressriffatt@gmail.com with intent to defraud, fraudulently obtaining a cumulative sum of Three Hundred and Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$345,000) from Linda Wheeler, an American, and receiving the naira equivalent through Ginux Global Nigeria Limited with account No. 1228782493 domiciled in Zenith Bank, thereby committing an offence contrary to Section 22(2) of the Cyber Crimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22(4) of the Act."

The defendant pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to him.

Following his guilty plea, prosecution counsel, Lanre Adeola Olariwaju, reviewed the case against Nkwocha and prayed the court to convict him accordingly.

According to Olariwaju, the convict was arrested in August 2024 at the Lugbe area of Abuja following an intelligence received by the EFCC's Advanced Fee Fraud Section. Items recovered during his arrest included: A black Mercedes Benz ML 350 with registration no. B-2 and Chassis no. 4JGDA5HB9DA105827, two gold necklaces with pendants, one gold bracelet, \$2,200 cash, N90,280,934.00 in the Ginux Global Nigeria Ltd Zenith Bank (account no. 1228782493), for which Nkwocha was the sole signatory.

A three-bedroom terrace duplex at Cookies Court 2, 2nd Avenue, Ocean Palm Estate, Ogombo, Sangotedo, Ajah, Lagos, a three-bedroom bungalow and two self-contained apartments situated on Plot B023, Standard Estate, Galadima, Abuja, and a plot of land measuring about 300 square meters at Eko Beach City, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos, two Zenith Bank drafts worth N5,000,000 and N3,000,000, dated September 12, 2024, and October 17, 2024, respectively. An iPhone 13 Pro Max, a Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra, and a Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra.

Nkwocha also confessed to impersonating Frank Nils, Frank Cobert, Frank Brown, and Chiress Riffatt using gmail and google voice to defraud Linda Wheeler, an American, of \$345,000. He received the naira equivalent through Ginux Global Nigeria Ltd's Zenith Bank account.

Olariwaju tendered several pieces of evidence, including the defendant's extrajudicial statements, electronic devices, forensic investigation reports, among others. The defence raised no objections and the court admitted all evidence as exhibits.

Justice Nwite, satisfied with the EFCC's submissions, found Nkwocha guilty. The court sentenced him to two years' imprisonment with an option of a fine of N2,000,000.

Additionally, the court ordered the forfeiture of the following items, being proceeds of crime, to the Federal Government of Nigeria: a black Mercedes Benz ML 350, gold jewelry and \$2,200 cash, N90,280,934.00 in the Ginux Global Nigeria Ltd Zenith Bank account, properties in Lagos, Abuja, and Lekki, the Zenith Bank drafts and the electronic devices recovered from the convict.

Nkwocha's journey to the Correctional Centre began when he was arrested for internet fraud. He was charged to court and pleaded guilty to two-count charges raised against him.

The court thereafter found him guilty and sentenced him to two years imprisonment. The court ordered the forfeiture of all he fraudulently amassed to the government.

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6 JAN 2025

EFCC Dismisses 27 Officers for Fraudulent Activities, Misconduct

In its quest to enforce integrity and rid its fold of fraudulent elements, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, dismissed twenty seven (27) officers from its workforce in 2024.

The officers were dismissed for various offences bordering on fraudulent activities and misconduct. Their dismissal, FOLLOWING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE STAFF Disciplinary Committee of the EFCC, was ratified by the Executive Chairman, Mr. Ola Olukoyede.

Olukoyede reiterated the commitment of the Commission to zero tolerance for corruption, warning that no officer is immune to disciplinary measures. Every modicum of allegation against any staff of the Commission would always be investigated, including a trending \$400,000 claim of a yet-to-be-identified supposed staff of the EFCC against a Sectional Head. The core values of the Commission are sacrosanct and would always be held in optimal regard at all times.

The Commission also wishes to alert the public of the sinister activities of impersonators and blackmailers using the name of its Executive Chairman to extort money from high-profile suspects being investigated by the EFCC.

Two members of an alleged syndicate, Ojobo Joshua and Aliyu Hashim were recently arraigned before Justice Jude Onwuebuzie of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Abuja for allegedly contacting a former Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority, Mr. Mohammed Bello-Kaka and demanding \$1million from him for “Olukoyede to give him soft landing” on a non-existing investigation. Such characters are still on the loose seeking victims.

Olukoyede remains a man of integrity that cannot be swayed by monetary influences. The public is enjoined to always report such disreputable elements to the Commission.

Additionally, the EFCC is aware of moves being hatched in some quarters to blackmail officers of the Commission through unwholesome means. Suspects being investigated for some economic and financial crimes who have failed to compromise their investigators would always clutch at any straw. Such blackmailers should not be accorded any form of attention.

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