

RECEIVED
7/12/2021

3:18 P.M.
William T.
Walsh, Clerk

2021R00423/JLH/VV

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Hon. Michael A. Shipp
	:	
v.	:	Crim. No. 21-392
	:	
PERRY OSAGIEDE,	:	
a/k/a, "Lord Sutan Abubakar	:	
de 1st,"	:	
a/k/a, "Rob Nicolella,"	:	18 U.S.C. § 1028A
a/k/a, "Alan Salomon,"	:	18 U.S.C. § 1343
ENORENSE IZEBBIGIE,	:	18 U.S.C. § 1349
a/k/a, "Richy Izevbigie,"	:	18 U.S.C. § 1956
a/k/a, "Lord Samuel S Nujoma,"	:	
FRANKLYN EDOSA OSAGIEDE,	:	
a/k/a, "Lord Nelson Rolihlahla	:	
Mandela,"	:	
a/k/a, "Edosa Franklyn Osagiede,"	:	
a/k/a, "Dave Hewitt,"	:	
a/k/a, "Bruce Dupont,"	:	
OSARIEMEN ERIC CLEMENT,	:	
a/k/a, "Lord Adekunle Ajasi,"	:	
a/k/a, "Aiden Wilson,"	:	
EGBE TONY IYAMU,	:	
a/k/a, "Lord Aminu Kano,"	:	
a/k/a, "Richard Amall,"	:	
COLLINS OWHOFASA OTUGHWOR,	:	
a/k/a, "Lord Jesse Makoko,"	:	
a/k/a, "Philip Coughlan," and	:	
MUSA MUDASHIRU,	:	
a/k/a, "Lord Oba Akenzua"	:	

SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury in and for the District of New Jersey, sitting at Newark,
charges:

COUNT ONE

(Wire Fraud Conspiracy – 18 U.S.C. § 1349)

1. At times relevant to this Superseding Indictment:

Individuals and Entities

a. Defendant PERRY OSAGIEDE, a/k/a “Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st,” a/k/a “Rob Nicolella,” a/k/a “Alan Salomon,” (“PERRY OSAGIEDE”) was a resident of South Africa and was a member of the Cape Town, South Africa Zone of the Neo Black Movement of Africa. PERRY OSAGIEDE was also associated with the business entity Peroski Auto & Spares Pty Ltd. (“Peroski”).

b. Defendant ENORENSE IZEVBIGIE, a/k/a “Richy Izevbigie,” a/k/a “Lord Samuel S Nujoma,” (“IZEVBIGIE”) was a resident of South Africa and was a member of the Cape Town, South Africa Zone of the Neo Black Movement of Africa. IZEVBIGIE was also associated with the business entity Abravoo Trading (“Abravoo”).

c. Defendant FRANKLYN EDOSA OSAGIEDE, a/k/a, “Lord Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela,” a/k/a, “Edosa Franklyn Osagiede,” a/k/a “Dave Hewitt,” a/k/a, “Bruce Dupont,” (“FRANKLYN OSAGIEDE”) was a resident of South Africa and was a member of the Cape Town, South Africa Zone of the Neo Black Movement of Africa.

d. Defendant OSARIEMEN ERIC CLEMENT, a/k/a, “Lord Adekunle Ajasi,” a/k/a, “Aiden Wilson,” (“CLEMENT”) was a resident of South Africa and was a member of the Cape Town, South Africa Zone of the Neo Black

Movement of Africa.

e. Defendant EGBE TONY IYAMU, a/k/a, “Lord Aminu Kano,” a/k/a, “Richard Amall,” (“IYAMU”) was a resident of South Africa and was a member of the Cape Town, South Africa Zone of the Neo Black Movement of Africa. IYAMU was associated with the business entity Tonymax Investments.

f. Defendant COLLINS OWHOFASA OTUGHWOR, a/k/a, “Lord Jesse Makoko,” a/k/a, “Philip Coughlan,” (“OTUGHWOR”) was a resident of South Africa and was a member of the Cape Town, South Africa Zone of the Neo Black Movement of Africa.

g. Defendant MUSA MUDASHIRU, a/k/a “Lord Oba Akenzua,” (“MUDASHIRU”) was a resident of South Africa and was a member of the Cape Town, South Africa Zone of the Neo Black Movement of Africa.

The Neo Black Movement of Africa (“Black Axe”)

h. The Neo Black Movement of Africa, also known as “Black Axe,” was an organization that originated and was headquartered in Benin City, Nigeria. Black Axe operated in various countries, including South Africa, and was organized into regional chapters known as “zones.” Black Axe worldwide was governed by a National Council of Elders. Members of Black Axe were referred to as “Axemen” or “Ayes.”

i. In or around 2013, the Cape Town Zone of Black Axe (the “Zone”) was formed. In or around 2018, the Zone was registered as an

organization with South Africa's Company and Intellectual Property Commission. Each member of the Zone was given an alias, known as a "strong name," upon joining Black Axe, which was sometimes used to refer to the member in correspondence between members.

j. The Zone had various leadership positions, including the following:

i. The "Zonal Head" functioned as the Zone's chief executive officer and was responsible for coordinating and presiding over Zone meetings and supervising the Zone's activities. The Zonal Head prepared annual reports regarding the Zone's progress and sent those reports to Black Axe's worldwide leadership.

ii. The "Chief Ihaza" functioned as the Zone's treasurer and was responsible for keeping the Zone's financial records and for collecting dues, levies, and donations from members of the Zone.

iii. The "Chief Eye" functioned as a recording secretary and prepared and kept records of proceedings of Zone meetings, aided by the "Assistant Eye."

iv. The "Chief Butcher" functioned as the Zone's security officer and was responsible for disciplining members of the Zone, aided by "Assistant Butchers."

v. In addition to these leadership positions, the Zone was

governed by a Council of Elders, which was run by a Chairman.

Relevant Terminology

k. “Romance Scams” involved perpetrators creating fictitious profiles using aliases on online dating or social websites, gaining the trust of potential victims by convincing the victim they are in a romantic relationship with the perpetrator, and then directing such victims to transfer or receive money under false pretenses. As a part of Romance Scams, perpetrators often utilize the same stories, communications, and narratives with several different victims.

l. “Advance-Fee Schemes” involved perpetrators making false statements about their ability and intention to provide and arrange for loans, inheritances, and other forms of financing, if the victim provided a smaller sum of money in advance of the larger transfer. If the victim provided the sum of money, the larger, promised amount was not later transferred to the victim.

m. “Level” referred to the particular story or problem told to a victim in furtherance of the fraud scheme.

The Conspiracy

2. From at least as early as in or around 2011 through the present, in Burlington County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendants

PERRY OSAGIEDE,
a/k/a, "Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st,"
a/k/a, "Rob Nicolella,"
a/k/a, "Alan Salomon,"
ENORENSE IZEVBIGIE,
a/k/a, "Richy Izevbigie,"
a/k/a, "Lord Samuel S Nujoma,"
FRANKLYN EDOSA OSAGIEDE,
a/k/a, "Lord Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela,"
a/k/a, "Edosa Franklyn Osagiede,"
a/k/a, "Dave Hewitt,"
a/k/a, "Bruce Dupont,"
OSARIEMEN ERIC CLEMENT,
a/k/a, "Lord Adekunle Ajasi,"
a/k/a, "Aiden Wilson,"
EGBE TONY IYAMU,
a/k/a, "Lord Aminu Kano,"
a/k/a, "Richard Amall,"
COLLINS OWHOFASA OTUGHWOR,
a/k/a, "Lord Jesse Makoko,"
a/k/a, "Philip Coughlan," and
MUSA MUDASHIRU,
a/k/a, "Lord Oba Akenzua"

knowingly and intentionally conspired and agreed with each other and with others to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property from victims by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and, for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice to defraud, to transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communications in interstate and foreign commerce certain writings,

signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

The Goal of the Conspiracy

3. It was the goal of the conspiracy for PERRY OSAGIEDE, IZEVBIGIE, FRANKLYN OSAGIEDE, CLEMENT, IYAMU, OTUGHWOR, MUDASHIRU, and others (the “Co-conspirators”) to enrich themselves and others by tricking individuals they targeted via the internet through materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises, and omissions to obtain money and other items of value.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

4. It was part of the conspiracy that:
a. The Co-conspirators and other members of Black Axe, including members of the Zone, took part in fraud schemes and openly discussed fraud schemes amongst their membership. For example, in an address by Black Axe’s Chairman of the National Council of Elders (the “Chairman”), the Chairman advised members against ostentatious displays of fraudulently obtained wealth to avoid attracting attention, saying, in relevant part:

I hear us all clamouring for change daily but the ‘Will’ dies upon realisation that the much touted change revolves around our illegal means of livelihood. My worry for the Movement is that we have lost the secrecy CODE. A greater percentage of Axemen gets involved in racketeering just like

any other persons but, the issue with Ayes is that we are too lousy. In the cause of our daily life, we show off unnecessarily our bad money. Can't we just hide ourselves in our life style? Can't we separate this our beloved movement from our illicit engagements? Why are we desecrating the essence of our common existence? Why must NBM negatively be on the spotlight every other day?

b. PERRY OSAGIEDE, IZEVBIGIE, FRANKLYN OSAGIEDE, CLEMENT, IYAMU, OTUGHWOR, and MUDASHIRU were members of Black Axe and of the Zone and maintained the following "strong names" and positions as part of their membership in the Zone:

i. PERRY OSAGIEDE was a founder of the Zone.

PERRY OSAGIEDE was the Zone's Zonal Head from in or around 2013 through in or around 2018, and, thereafter, an Elder of the Zone. PERRY OSAGIEDE's strong name was "Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st."

ii. IZEVBIGIE was the Zone's Chairman of the Council of Elders from in or around 2013 through in or around 2018, and, thereafter, was its Zonal Head. IZEVBIGIE's strong name was "Lord Samuel S Nujoma."

iii. FRANKLYN OSAGIEDE was the Zone's Chief Ihaza from in or around 2013 through in or around 2018, and, thereafter, an Elder on its Council of Elders. FRANKLYN OSAGIEDE's strong name was "Lord Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela."

iv. CLEMENT was the Assistant Eye of the Zone from in

or about 2013 to in or about 2018. CLEMENT's strong name was "Lord Adekunle Ajasi."

v. IYAMU was the Zone's Chief Butcher from in or about 2013 to in or about 2018, and, thereafter, was its Chairman of the Council of Elders. IYAMU's strong name was "Lord Aminu Kano."

vi. OTUGHWOR was the Zone's Chief Eye starting in or around 2013. OTUGHWOR's strong name was "Lord Jesse Makoko."

vii. MUDASHIRU was one of the Zone's Assistant Butchers starting in or around 2013. MUDASHIRU's strong name was "Lord Oba Akenzua."

c. The Co-conspirators used aliases to misrepresent the true identities of the individuals communicating with victims in furtherance of the fraud, including Romance Scams and Advance Fee Schemes, including the following aliases: Aiden Wilson, Alan Salomon, Bruce Dupont, Charlie Stewart, Collins Norden, Dave Hewitt, Enriqo Roberto, Eric Fernando, Fredrick Alonzo, Greg Hewat, Hugo Benoit Rousseau, Huy Hoang, Maria Jacobs, Paul Derek, Pete Bradwell, Peter Bennett, Peter Scott, Philip Coughlan, Richard Amall, Richard Webber, Rob Nicollela, Sean Edgar, Steven Thomas, and Terry Schneider.

d. The Co-conspirators often used aliases not only of the purported love interest of a victim, but also of other people involved in that

person's life, including a purported child, a business partner, or a friend, to bolster the perceived legitimacy of the stories portrayed as a part of the Romance Scam or Advance Fee Scheme and to further induce the victims to send money on behalf of the purported love interest. The Co-conspirators also utilized the financial accounts of other victims to conceal and disguise the illegally obtained funds.

e. The Co-conspirators used social media websites, end-to-end encrypted means of communication, Voice over Internet Protocol phone numbers, and online dating websites to locate and communicate with victims of their Romance Scams and Advance Fee Schemes and the other Co-conspirators.

f. The Co-conspirators worked with one another and others to circulate and use fraudulent narratives in Romance Scams and Advance Fee Schemes to induce victims to send money and other items of value based on the false pretenses in the narrative. Many of these fraudulent narratives involved claims that an individual was traveling to South Africa for work and needed money or other items of value following a series of unfortunate and unforeseen events, often involving a construction site and/or problems with a crane. Examples of the Defendants transferring narratives with each other and others include the following:

i. On or about October 22, 2013, PERRY OSAGIEDE

emailed IZEVBIGIE a narrative for an Advance Fee Scheme requesting a payment of thousands of dollars to satisfy a purported tax liability.

ii. On or about May 19, 2014, OTUGHWOR emailed narratives for a Romance Scam seeking a loan to fix a crane for a construction project. One narrative stated, in relevant part:

My beautiful [Redacted], I don't know how you can always discover a way to make me smile with each mail even when i am under a terrible stress! Baby, the negotiation did not go in my favour. They came to fix the crane quite alright, test used it and it was a 100% perfect but when they asked for the balance, i told them to give me till next week that i am expecting some money but they refused and said it is against their business principles, they took out some of the parts which they installed and left, giving me till Friday otherwise they will take a legal action because they need to pay the parts supplier. Zara was there and she was so frightened because of the shouting and ranting. Honey, i don't know how you will take this, i hate doing it but i have no other option, with profound sense of sadness and disgrace i am begging you to please loan me the balance, if possible a little bit more for up-keeping, i promise i will reimburse you once they come for inspection and give me the part-payment and that cannot be more than sometime next week. Baby, i swear in the name of God together with my daughter, i will pay you every cents of whatever you will loan me. Honey, I look forward your positive respond, so i can send you the details on how you can get the fund across to me here, i have so much faith and believe in you my LOVE.

iii. On or about August 13, 2014, MUDASHIRU emailed

IYAMU narratives for use in a Romance Scam.

iv. On or about February 24, 2015, FRANKLYN

OSAGIEDE emailed PERRY OSAGIEDE a Romance Scam narrative, which contained the following:

My friend Matt Rodgers who isn't into internet dating came across your profile through my account Last night and he's been all over me about getting intouch with you, he said you seem like a woman whom has found balance in all aspect of Life which is a hard thing to come by these days. He's 6.1' tall, 50 years old, a good Listener, Good Looking and all rounded a complete Guy,I didnt tell him i was gonna contact you, but thought i take a chance, you never know until you try,it might be worth it in the end He lives in Fruit Cove, FL. so take a chance and e-mail him, he'll share a picture and more information with you, his direct e-mail is: mattrods[Redacted], Hope you can decode that lol as the site wouldn't let it go through directly.

v. On or about March 10, 2015, PERRY OSAGIEDE sent

an email describing a Romance Scam that had been perpetrated against a victim, explaining, in relevant part:

Sorry my brother say na now i dey send you the level.

The level be say, one of my boys here catch this woman for online dating site. He remove am some cash so he come push the work enter my bank "Investec Private Bank", based on say he job don finish here so, dem wan pay he contract sum of \$2.3m and as e be say him dey come meet the woman directly for Canada, that na why he tell the woman to help am receive the money which

she agreed to and since then, na one story or the other.

I don first transfer the money through China but bicos the fiancee passport don expire, the money was returned to Cape Town. Now, I give her two options which either to transfer through intermediary bank for UK or Through USA which she chose US because US near her and the Cost of transfer dey more reasonable. I don work the woman reach the level wey e be say i tell her say bicos the fiancee document don expire, the bank for America dey send two officers dey come carry the funds here so that the fiancee go sign the consignment give them in the presence of our Board of Trustees. She don agree to that so, the officers go arrive tomorrow then the next

thing go be to arrive for that side.

The last amount i collect from her na \$21,000 but over \$100,000 in total. I go tell her say the officers go carry the money come meet her for Canada but you go call her, charge her for HANDLING and SECURITY charges wey dem go take release the consignment for airport.

The charges fit be between \$35,000 and \$50,000. You go carry on from there.

vi. On or about January 17, 2017, PERRY OSAGIEDE emailed a list of aliases used in furtherance of the conspiracy and Romance Scam narratives, including the following:

Hello sweetie,

I am very sorry for not writing or calling often as promised, i have been very busy trying to get hold of the lawyer handling our brief in Cape Town annent my father's contract money. Remember i told you that my father's death was supposed to

bring me a fortune but looks like it is turning into a misfortune because of the last contract he executed in Cape Town. He literally invested all his money on that contract but he became sick before the pay-out and the amount is over \$2million. I have submitted all kinds of affidavit to claim the funds but the delay was almost becoming endless. I received an email from the lawyer telling me that i have been given an approval to receive the funds but i must come down to sign the approval letters, i have been trying to get in touch with him by way of emails and phone calls in order to make an arrangement to go down but to no avail.

Baby, you must understand that you are a member of my soul now so, i will not intentionally avoid your calls or rather don't reply to your emails. My mom has been operated on and it was a success, she has to undergo about 4 chemotherapy sections and wait for full recovering. I love you so much my dearie. It is late here now but we will talk in the morning, okay?

vii. On or about February 23, 2019, FRANKLYN

OSAGIEDE emailed IYAMU a shipping label for use in an Advance Fee Scheme involving a shipping logistics company. IYAMU received a separate email containing, in relevant part, the following Advance Fee Scheme narrative:

Dear Valued Customer,

Sequel to your parcel that is currently at London Heathrow International Airport due for the UNITED STATES, you can track and trace your parcel online, we are waiting for the value added tax to enable us to send your parcel to you as soon as possible, as soon as our Head office confirm your payment, your parcel will be sent to your stipulated address in the UNITED STATES,

please note that the payment has to be accurate to avoid sending money twice, the value added tax attracts the sum of \$9,687.00 (Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty-Seven United States Dollars) these charges are subject to United States custom regulation, your parcel was registered as special parcel, and value more than (\$39,000.00), your parcel estimated value is over (\$1,500,000.00), without the value added tax, your parcel is not permitted to leave London Heathrow International Airport by the England custom Authority, because we don't have an office in the United States, our delivery agent will pick up your parcel from London airport and fly to the United States to deliver to you.

We hereby implore your indulgence to remit the value added tax to the payment information below, please endeavor to scan the payment slip to this email for immediate confirmation and also send a copy of your driver's license for verification.

viii. On or about December 8, 2019, MUDASHIRU emailed Romance Scam narratives involving aliases, including "Steven Thomas," "Paul Derek," "Eric Fernando," "Bruce Dupont," and "Pete Bradwell."

ix. On or about August 22, 2020, IYAMU sent an email containing login information for various online dating accounts purportedly maintained by individuals in the United States and several Romance Scam narratives, including, in relevant part, the following:

Hi Dear.

I was talking my relative into online dating when we were together and I decided to show him profiles of ladies on here. Yours stood out and

because of his remarkable comment. Your profile came up in "his" search criteria and he only took interest in yours. And said you are very beautiful.

His name is Richard, he's in the same age bracket as your search and he lives close to you. From what he said, I had to come out straight to you and let you know. He compliments your pretty photo and remarkable profile. I urge you to give this a try. I'm doing this because I really do believe in love, and you never can tell where and when it could hit you, that "leap of faith" is all you need. He is widowed, lost his wife years ago and now wants to get back into dating and doesn't like the bar scene and obviously not on the site to possibly contact you. Please, I ask that you give it a try, he is a very awesome guy and very handsome ;), intelligent, kind hearted, dedicated man and he's got a beautiful sense of humor, so gentlemanly. I could go on and on hey...but I don't want you to think i'm just praising him, you will see for yourself when you contact him. You don't need to write back here as I will be deactivating my account on the site anytime soon. His direct email is richardamall[Redacted] I hope you get in touch with him and I promise you won't not regret anything. Here is a link to some of his pictures I uploaded here: [https://\[Redacted\]pix.weebly.com](https://[Redacted]pix.weebly.com) Just copy and paste it on your browser login your [Redacted] account correctly and check him out, You can as well email him for his photos and details if you find any difficulties viewing his photos via the link: richardamall[Redacted]. As I will be leaving the site. Here is the email again: richardamall[Redacted] I believe you will thank me later for this.

g. The Co-conspirators communicated with victims in furtherance of Romance Scams and Advance Fee Schemes and convinced

victims to send money and items of value for the Co-conspirators' benefit. The Co-conspirators also convinced some victims to open financial accounts for the Co-conspirators and allow the Co-conspirators to use the victims' financial accounts in the United States.

h. The Co-conspirators used certain victims and other individuals with U.S.-based financial accounts to receive illegally obtained money in the U.S.-based financial accounts and to transfer the funds to accounts overseas for the Co-conspirators' benefit.

i. When some victims stopped or expressed hesitation in sending money to the Co-Conspirators, the Co-conspirators engaged in manipulative tactics to coerce the victims into sending money. For example, alias "Aiden Wilson," an alias used by CLEMENT, threatened to distribute personally sensitive photographs of a victim on the internet and to other people known by the victim when the victim hesitated to send money.

j. The Co-conspirators requested, received, and transferred photographs and screenshots of bank transfer documents to confirm that fraudulently obtained funds were transferred as directed and the Co-conspirators would know the name and information of the accountholder who transferred money.

k. The Co-conspirators, including PERRY OSAGIEDE, IZEVBIGIE, and IYAMU, used entities, including Peroski, Abravoo, Tonymax,

and others to fraudulently induce others to send money to South Africa in furtherance of the fraud.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

COUNTS TWO THROUGH SIX
(Wire Fraud – 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 2)

1. Paragraphs 1 through 4 of Count One of the Superseding Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated herein.

2. From in or around 2011 through the present, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the following defendants and others knowingly devised and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud victims of money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and on or about the dates listed below, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, for the purposes of executing and attempting to execute this scheme and artifice to defraud, the following defendants knowingly and intentionally did transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio and television communications in interstate commerce, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds, as listed below:

COUNT	APPROXIMATE DATE	DEFENDANT(S)	WIRE
2	December 21, 2016	PERRY OSAGIEDE, a/k/a, "Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st," a/k/a, "Rob Nicolella," a/k/a, "Alan Salomon," FRANKLYN EDOSA OSAGIEDE,	Causing the transfer of approximately \$44,000 by an interstate wire that traveled through New Jersey.

		a/k/a, "Lord Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela," a/k/a, "Edosa Franklyn Osaigede," a/k/a, "Dave Hewitt," a/k/a, "Bruce Dupont," OSARIEMEN ERIC CLEMENT, a/k/a, "Lord Adekunle Ajasi," a/k/a, "Aiden Wilson"	
3	April 27, 2017	PERRY OSAGIEDE, a/k/a, "Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st," a/k/a, "Rob Nicolella," a/k/a, "Alan Salomon"	Causing the transfer of approximately \$3,500 by an interstate wire that traveled through New Jersey.
4	March 7, 2018	ENORENSE IZEBIGIE, a/k/a, "Richy Izevbigie," a/k/a, "Lord Samuel S Nujoma"	Causing the transfer of approximately \$18,020 by interstate wire that traveled through New Jersey.
5	March 14, 2018	ENORENSE IZEBIGIE, a/k/a, "Richy Izevbigie," a/k/a, "Lord Samuel S Nujoma"	Causing the transfer of approximately \$18,020 by interstate wire that traveled through New Jersey.
6	October 29, 2020	EGBE TONY IYAMU, a/k/a, "Lord Aminu Kano," a/k/a, "Richard Amall"	Causing the transfer of approximately \$725 by interstate wire that traveled through New Jersey.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343 and Section 2.

COUNT SEVEN

(Money Laundering Conspiracy – 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h))

1. Paragraphs 1 through 4 of Count One of this Superseding Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated herein.
2. At all times relevant to the Superseding Indictment, “Business-Email Compromise” was a type of internet-related fraud often targeting businesses or individuals working with businesses on transactions involving wire transfer payments. The fraud was carried out by compromising and/or “spoofing” legitimate email accounts through social engineering or computer intrusion techniques to cause employees of the target company (or other individuals involved in legitimate business transactions) to conduct unauthorized transfers of funds, most often to accounts controlled by the scammers.

The Conspiracy

3. From in or about 2011 through the present, in Monmouth County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendants

PERRY OSAGIEDE,
a/k/a, “Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st,”
a/k/a, “Rob Nicolella,”
a/k/a, “Alan Salomon,”
ENORENSE IZEVBIGIE,
a/k/a, “Richy Izevbigie,”
a/k/a, “Lord Samuel S Nujoma,”
FRANKLYN EDOSA OSAGIEDE,
a/k/a, “Lord Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela,”
a/k/a, “Edosa Franklyn Osagiede,”
a/k/a, “Dave Hewitt,”

a/k/a, "Bruce Dupont,"
OSARIEMEN ERIC CLEMENT,
a/k/a, "Lord Adekunle Ajasi,"
a/k/a, "Aiden Wilson,"
EGBE TONY IYAMU,
a/k/a, "Lord Aminu Kano,"
a/k/a, "Richard Amall,"
COLLINS OWHOFASA OTUGHWOR,
a/k/a, "Lord Jesse Makoko,"
a/k/a, "Philip Coughlan," and
MUSA MUDASHIRU,
a/k/a, "Lord Oba Akenzua"

did knowingly, combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other and others known and unknown, to commit certain offenses against the United States in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, to wit, to transport, transmit, and transfer, and attempt to transport, transmit, and transfer a monetary instrument and funds involving the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, wire fraud conspiracy contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349, from a place in the United States to and through a place outside the United States, knowing that the monetary instrument and funds involved in the transportation, transmission, and transfer represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity and knowing that such transportation, transmission, and transfer was designed in whole or in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, and control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(2)(B)(i).

The Goal of the Conspiracy

4. It was the goal of the conspiracy for PERRY OSAGIEDE, IZEVBIGIE, FRANKLYN OSAGIEDE, CLEMENT, IYAMU, OTUGHWOR, MUDASHIRU, and others to obtain money obtained by wire fraud that traveled through and from the United States to outside the United States, including South Africa, in a manner that concealed the illegal nature of the funds.

Manner and Means

5. It was part of the conspiracy that:

a. As described in Count One, the Co-conspirators worked together to engage in Romance Scams and Advance Fee Schemes to induce victims to fraudulently send money to South Africa for the benefit of the Co-conspirators. The Co-conspirators often used aliases to bolster the perceived legitimacy of the fraudulent information told to the victims and used the financial accounts of other victims and financial accounts in the names of entities to conceal and disguise the illegal nature of the funds.

b. The Co-conspirators shared among themselves and others the account information of U.S.-based financial accounts. For example:

i. On or about March 13, 2015, OTUGHWOR emailed a Co-conspirator a U.S. bank account in furtherance of a Romance Scam.

ii. On or about March 17, 2015, MUDASHIRU emailed a Co-conspirator a U.S. bank account and account holder details of a person

residing in the United States.

c. In addition to victims of fraud schemes, the Co-conspirators used other individuals located both in the United States and outside the United States (the “Mules”) to receive and transfer illegally obtained money on behalf of the Co-conspirators. The Co-conspirators used the Mules to conceal and disguise the illegal nature of their criminal proceeds.

d. The Co-conspirators prepared and transferred fraudulent invoices to further disguise and conceal the illegal nature of their criminal proceeds.

e. The Co-conspirators fraudulently obtained money through Business-Email Compromise schemes by purporting to be the authorized user of email accounts engaged in monetary transactions and fraudulently directing the money transfer to be sent to one or more Mules acting at the Co-conspirators’ direction.

f. The Co-conspirators directed Mules located in the United States, including in New Jersey, to deposit illegally obtained money into their United States financial accounts and to transfer the illegally obtained money to other Mules and to South Africa for the benefit of the Co-conspirators. For example:

i. On or about September 25, 2017, a Mule in New Jersey, acting at the Co-conspirators’ direction, wired money to an account in

the name of Abravoo that was controlled by IZEVBIGIE.

g. The Co-conspirators sent emails to one another with copies of confirmations of wire transfers that were executed on behalf of the Co-conspirators by victims and Mules. For example:

i. On or about, February 6, 2016, FRANKLYN OSAGIEDE sent PERRY OSAGIEDE a photograph of a wire transfer confirmation from a bank account maintained by a Romance Scam victim to Peroski.

ii. On or about June 8, 2016, PERRY OSAGIEDE received a photograph of a wire confirmation from a bank account maintained by a Mule in New Jersey at the direction of the Co-conspirators.

iii. On or about July 21, 2016, CLEMENT received a photograph of a wire confirmation from a bank account maintained by a Romance Scam victim.

iv. On or about February 1, 2017, a wire transfer confirmation reflecting a payment made from a Romance Scam victim to Peroski was forwarded by a Co-conspirator to PERRY OSAGIEDE.

v. On or about January 17, 2020, a receipt for a money transaction to a Romance Scam victim was sent to IYAMU.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

COUNTS EIGHT THROUGH FOURTEEN

(Aggravated Identity Theft – 18 U.S.C. §§ 1028A and 2)

1. Paragraphs 1 through 4 of Count One of this Superseding Indictment are re-alleged and incorporated herein.

2. On or about the following dates, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the following listed defendants did knowingly transfer, possess, and use, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person during and in relation to a felony violation enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 1028A(c), to wit, wire fraud conspiracy, contrary to 18 U.S.C. § 1349, set forth in Count One of this Superseding Indictment, knowing that the means of identification belonged to another actual person:

COUNT	APPROXIMATE DATE(S)	DEFENDANT(S)	MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION
8	July 22, 2016	PERRY OSAGIEDE, a/k/a, "Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st," a/k/a, "Rob Nicolella," a/k/a, "Alan Salomon," and FRANKLYN EDOSA OSAGIEDE, a/k/a, "Lord Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela," a/k/a, "Edosa Franklyn Osagiede," a/k/a, "Dave Hewitt," a/k/a, "Bruce Dupont"	The name of Victim 1 and a reference number of Victim 1
9	August 14, 2018	PERRY OSAGIEDE, a/k/a, "Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st," a/k/a, "Rob Nicolella," a/k/a, "Alan Salomon"	The name of Victim 2, along with a phone number and email address associated with Victim 2

COUNT	APPROXIMATE DATE(S)	DEFENDANT(S)	MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION
10	November 13, 2018	PERRY OSAGIEDE, a/k/a, "Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st," a/k/a, "Rob Nicolella," a/k/a, "Alan Salomon"	The name of Victim 3, along with a wire transfer sent from Victim 3's bank account
11	May 2, 2019	EGBE TONY IYAMU, a/k/a, "Lord Aminu Kano," a/k/a, "Richard Amall,"	The name of Victim 4, a bank account number for Victim 4, and a bank routing number for Victim 4
12	June 13, 2019	COLLINS OWHOFASA OTUGHWOR, a/k/a, "Lord Jesse Makoko," a/k/a, "Philip Coughlan"	The name of Victim 5, along with a phone number and email address associated with Victim 5
13	September 30, 2019	FRANKLYN EDOSA OSAGIEDE, a/k/a, "Lord Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela," a/k/a, "Edosa Franklyn Osagiede," a/k/a, "Dave Hewitt," a/k/a, "Bruce Dupont"	The name of Victim 6, along with a phone number and email address associated with Victim 6
14	August 2019 through in or around March 2021	EGBE TONY IYAMU, a/k/a, "Lord Aminu Kano," a/k/a, "Richard Amall"	Debit cards each containing an account number of Victim 7

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A and Section 2.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNTS ONE THROUGH SIX

1. As a result of committing the wire fraud conspiracy offense charged in Count One and wire fraud offenses charged in Counts Two through Six of this Superseding Indictment, the defendants charged in each count shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property, real or personal, constituting or derived from proceeds traceable to the wire fraud conspiracy offense alleged in Count One and wire fraud offenses alleged in Counts Two through Six of this Superseding Indictment.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT SEVEN

2. As a result of committing the money laundering conspiracy offense charged in Count Seven of this Superseding Indictment, the defendants charged in this count shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), all property, real or personal, involved in such money laundering conspiracy offense, and all property traceable to such property.

SUBSTITUTE ASSETS PROVISION
(Applicable to All Forfeiture Allegations)

3. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

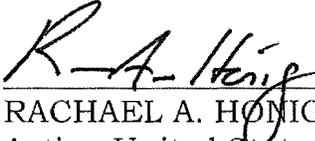
- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of such defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described in Forfeiture Allegation paragraphs 1 and 2.

A True Bill,

Foreperson


RACHAEL A. HONIG
Acting United States Attorney

FILED

SEP 20 2021

AT 8:30 4:12 PM
WILLIAM T. WALSH
CLERK SPC

2021R00719/JLH/VV

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Hon. Michael A. Shipp
	:	
v.	:	Crim. No. 21-735 (MAS)
	:	
TORITSEJU GABRIEL OTUBU,	:	18 U.S.C. § 1028A 18
a/k/a "Andy Richards,"	:	U.S.C. § 1343 18
a/k/a "Ann Petersen"	:	U.S.C. § 1349 18
	:	U.S.C. § 1956
	:	

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury in and for the District of New Jersey, sitting at Newark, charges:

COUNT ONE

(Wire Fraud Conspiracy – 18 U.S.C. § 1349)

1. At times relevant to this Indictment:

a. Defendant TORITSEJU GABRIEL OTUBU, a/k/a "Andy Richards," a/k/a "Ann Petersen," was a resident of South Africa and a citizen of Nigeria. OTUBU controlled the entity Otubu Properties Pty Ltd. ("Otubu Properties").

b. Co-conspirator-1 was a citizen of Nigeria and a resident of South Africa. Co-conspirator-1 was a founding member of the Cape Town, South Africa Zone of the Neo Black Movement of Africa. The Neo Black Movement of Africa, which is also known as the "Black Axe," was an organization that originated and is headquartered in Benin City, Nigeria. Black Axe operated in various countries, including South Africa, and was

organized into regional chapters known as “zones.” Co-conspirator-1 controlled a business entity that was used, among other things, to receive proceeds of Romance Scams.

c. “Romance Scams” involved perpetrators creating fictitious profiles using aliases on online dating or social websites, gaining the trust of potential victims by convincing the victims that they are in a romantic relationship with the perpetrator, and then directing such victims to transfer or receive money that the perpetrator later tried to collect, all under false pretenses.

d. “Business-Email Compromise” was a type of internet-related fraud often targeting businesses, entities, or individuals working with businesses on transactions involving wire transfer payments. The fraud was carried out by compromising and/or “spoofing” legitimate email accounts through social engineering or computer intrusion techniques to cause employees of the target company (or other individuals involved in legitimate business transactions) to conduct unauthorized transfers of funds, most often to accounts controlled by the scammers.

e. All wire transfers processed through the Fedwire Funds Service (“Fedwire”) were processed in a way that caused an electronic communication to travel through a Federal Reserve facility in New Jersey.

f. “University-1” was a university located in Connecticut.

g. “Business-1” was a company located in Pennsylvania.

h. “Victim-1” and “Victim-2” were both victims of Romance Scams who resided in the United States.

The Conspiracy

2. From at least in or about October 2016 through in or about September 2021, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

TORITSEJU GABRIEL OTUBU,
a/k/a “Andy Richards,”
a/k/a “Ann Petersen,”

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with Co-conspirator-1 and others to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money and property from victims by means of false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and, for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice to defraud, to transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire communications in interstate and foreign commerce certain writings, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343.

The Goal of the Conspiracy

3. It was the goal of the conspiracy for OTUBU, Co-conspirator-1, and others (the “Co-conspirators”) to enrich themselves and others by tricking individuals they targeted via the internet through materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises, and omissions to obtain

money and other items of value.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

4. It was part of the conspiracy that:

a. The Co-conspirators used aliases to misrepresent the true identities of the individuals communicating with victims in furtherance of the fraud scheme, including the following:

i. OTUBU used the aliases “Andy Richards” and “Ann Petersen,” purportedly from Aberdeen, Scotland, in furtherance of the fraud scheme.

ii. The Co-conspirators used the aliases “Dioli Guarneri,” “Frederick Alonzo,” “Richard Luregn,” “Chris Frank,” “Kenneth Voitus Giorgio,” and others, in furtherance of the fraud scheme.

b. The Co-conspirators often used aliases not only of the purported love interest of a victim, but also of other people involved in the purported love interest’s life, including a business partner or a friend, to bolster the perceived legitimacy of the stories portrayed as a part of the Romance Scam and to further induce the victims to send money on behalf of the purported love interest.

c. The Co-conspirators perpetrated Business Email Compromises to obtain money. For example:

i. Business-1 was a victim of a Business Email

Compromise perpetrated by the Co-conspirators, which caused Business-1 to unwittingly send more than approximately \$2 million into financial accounts from in or about July 2020 to in or about August 2020.

ii. University-1 was a victim of a Business Email

Compromise perpetrated by the Co-conspirators, which caused University-1 to unwittingly send more than approximately \$4,644,000 in payments from in or about August 2020 through in or about November 2020.

d. The Co-conspirators utilized the financial accounts of other victims and individuals to conceal and disguise the illegally obtained funds.

e. The Co-conspirators communicated with Romance Scam victims and convinced victims to send money and items of value for the Co-conspirators' benefit, including money obtained by Business Email Compromises.

f. The Co-conspirators convinced Romance Scam victims to open accounts at cryptocurrency exchanges to conduct cryptocurrency transactions and to permit the Co-conspirators to conduct cryptocurrency transactions for the Co-conspirators' benefit, including cryptocurrency transactions that derived from Business Email Compromises.

g. OTUBU used Otubu Properties to receive money from Romance Scams. For example, in or about December 2017, a Romance Scam victim who believed that she was in a relationship with "Dioli Guarneri," sent

international wire transfers to an account in the name of Otubu Properties.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

COUNTS TWO THROUGH FIVE
(Wire Fraud – 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 2)

1. Paragraphs 1, 3, and 4 of Count One of the Indictment are re-alleged here.
2. From in or around 2016 through the present, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

TORITSEJU GABRIEL OTUBU,
a/k/a “Andy Richards,”
a/k/a “Ann Petersen,”

and others did knowingly and intentionally devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud victims of money and property by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, and on or about the dates listed below, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, for the purposes of executing and attempting to execute this scheme and artifice to defraud, did knowingly and intentionally transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio and television communications in interstate commerce, certain writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds, as listed below:

COUNT	APPROXIMATE DATE	WIRE
2	December 18, 2017	Causing the transfer of approximately \$32,000 by an interstate wire that traveled through New Jersey via Fedwire.
3	July 30, 2020	Causing the transfer of approximately \$150,000 by an interstate wire that traveled through New Jersey via Fedwire.

4	November 17, 2020	Causing the transfer of approximately \$245,000 by an interstate wire that traveled through New Jersey via Fedwire.
5	November 27, 2020	Causing the transfer of approximately \$150,000 by an interstate wire that traveled through New Jersey via Fedwire.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343 and Section 2.

COUNT SIX

(Money Laundering Conspiracy – 18 U.S.C. § 1956(h))

1. Paragraphs 1, 3, and 4 of Count One, and Counts Two through Five of this Indictment, are re-alleged here.

The Conspiracy

2. From in or about October 2016 through in or about September 2021, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

TORITSEJU GABRIEL OTUBU,
a/k/a “Andy Richards,”
a/k/a “Ann Petersen,”

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with Co-conspirator-1 and others to conduct and attempt to conduct financial transactions affecting interstate commerce, which transactions involved the proceeds of specified unlawful activity, that is, wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, knowing that the transactions were designed in whole and in part to conceal and disguise the nature, location, source, ownership and control of the proceeds of said specified unlawful activity, and that while conducting and attempting to conduct such financial transactions knew that the property involved in the financial transactions represented the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B)(i).

The Goal of the Conspiracy

3. It was the goal of the conspiracy for OTUBU, Co-conspirator-1, and others to obtain money obtained by wire fraud that traveled through the United States in a manner that concealed the illegal nature of the funds.

Manner and Means

4. It was part of the conspiracy that:

a. The Co-conspirators used individuals, including Romance Scam victims, to open and access U.S.-based bank accounts and cryptocurrency accounts so the Co-conspirators could launder illegally obtained money.

b. OTUBU provided U.S. bank account information to other Co-conspirators to conceal money deposited into these bank accounts from other individuals, including the Romance Scam victims.

c. OTUBU and Co-conspirator-1 used false invoices addressed to Romance Scam victims to conceal the illegal nature of funds sent by the victims. OTUBU and Co-conspirator-1 used the false invoices to, among other things, provide to banks as the purported proof of why the Romance Scam victims transferred money to the accounts that OTUBU and Co-conspirator-1 controlled, as opposed to admitting that the funds were transferred as a part of a fraudulent Romance Scam.

d. OTUBU received money that was the result of Business

Email Compromises and Romance Scams, including through an account held in the name of Otubu Properties.

e. OTUBU and other Co-conspirators utilized cryptocurrency accounts to facilitate the transfer of illegally obtained money from the United States.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h).

COUNTS SEVEN THROUGH NINE

(Aggravated Identity Theft – 18 U.S.C. §§ 1028A and 2)

1. Paragraphs 1, 3, and 4 of Count One of this Indictment are re-alleged here.
2. On or about the following dates, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

TORITSEJU GABRIEL OTUBU,
a/k/a “Andy Richards,”
a/k/a “Ann Petersen,”

did knowingly and intentionally transfer, possess, and use, without lawful authority, a means of identification of another person during and in relation to a felony violation enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 1028A(c), that is, wire fraud conspiracy, contrary to 18 U.S.C. § 1349, set forth in Count One of this Indictment, knowing that the means of identification belonged to another actual person:

COUNT	APPROXIMATE DATE(S)	MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION
7	November 12, 2018	OTUBU possessed and transferred an invoice bearing the name of Victim-1 to facilitate the receipt of funds sent from Victim-1’s bank account.
8	September 30, 2019	OTUBU possessed and caused to be transferred the username and password of Victim-2’s cryptocurrency exchange account.
9	February 2020- May 2020	OTUBU possessed and caused to be transferred the bank debit card with an account number belonging to Victim-2.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A and Section 2.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNTS ONE THROUGH FIVE

1. As a result of committing the wire fraud conspiracy offense charged in Count One and wire fraud offenses charged in Counts Two through Five of this Indictment, the defendant, **TORITSEJU GABRIEL OTUBU**, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property, real or personal, constituting or derived from proceeds traceable to the wire fraud conspiracy offense alleged in Count One and wire fraud offenses alleged in Counts Two through Five of this Indictment.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION AS TO COUNT SIX

2. As a result of committing the money laundering conspiracy offense charged in Count Six of this Indictment, the defendant, **TORITSEJU GABRIEL OTUBU**, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(1), all property, real or personal, involved in such money laundering conspiracy offense, and all property traceable to such property.

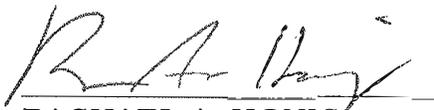
SUBSTITUTE ASSETS PROVISION
(Applicable to All Forfeiture Allegations)

3. If any of the property described above, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
 - b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;

- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of such defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property described in Forfeiture Allegation paragraphs 1 and 2.

A True Bill,



RACHAEL A. HONIG
Acting United States Attorney

CASE NUMBER: 21-735 (MAS)

**United States District Court
District of New Jersey**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

**TORITSEJU GABRIEL OTUBU,
a/k/a "Andy Richards,"
a/k/a "Ann Petersen"**

INDICTMENT FOR

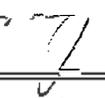
18 U.S.C. § 1028A

18 U.S.C. § 1343

18 U.S.C. § 1349

18 U.S.C. § 1956

A True Bill,

Foreperson 

RACHAEL A. HONIG
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

JAMIE L. HOXIE
VERA VARSHAVSKY
ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
973-645-2700

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

District of New Jersey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Eight Nigerians Charged with Conspiring to Engage in Internet Scams and Money Laundering from Cape Town, South Africa

Seven Defendants are Leaders of Cape Town Zone of Neo Black Movement of Africa, also known as "Black Axe"

NEWARK, N.J. – Seven leaders of the Cape Town Zone of the Neo Black Movement of Africa, also known as "Black Axe," and an eighth man who conspired with a Black Axe leader, were charged with multiple federal crimes relating to internet scams they perpetrated from South Africa, Acting U.S. Attorney Rachael A. Honig announced today.

Perry Osagiede, aka "Lord Sutan Abubakar de 1st," aka "Rob Nicolella," aka "Alan Salomon," 52; Enorenshe Izevbigie, aka "Richy Izevbigie," aka "Lord Samuel S Nujoma," 45; Franklyn Edosa Osagiede, aka, "Lord Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela," aka, "Edosa Franklyn Osagiede," aka "Dave Hewitt," aka, "Bruce Dupont," 37; Osariemen Eric Clement, aka, "Lord Adekunle Ajasi," aka, "Aiden Wilson," 35; Collins Owhofasa Otughwor, aka, "Lord Jesse Makoko," aka, "Philip Coughlan," 37; and Musa Mudashiru, aka "Lord Oba Akenzua," 33; all originally from Nigeria, are charged by superseding indictment with wire fraud conspiracy and money laundering conspiracy, spanning from 2011 to 2021. One defendant remains at large.

Perry Osagiede, Franklyn Osagiede, Clement, and Izevbigie are also charged with wire fraud. Perry Osagiede, Franklyn Osagiede, and Otughwor are charged with aggravated identity theft.

Toritseju Gabriel Otubu, aka "Andy Richards," aka "Ann Petersen," 41, also originally from Nigeria, is charged by separate indictment with wire fraud conspiracy, wire fraud, aggravated identity theft, and money laundering conspiracy, spanning from 2016 to 2021.

"Americans are too often victimized by criminal organizations located abroad who use the internet to deceive those victims, defraud them of money, and, many times, persuade the victims to wittingly or unwittingly assist in perpetuating the fraudulent schemes," Acting U.S. Attorney Honig said. "The public should be on guard against schemes like these. And, more importantly, anyone thinking of engaging in this kind of criminal conduct should understand that the U.S. Attorney's Office and our partners will find them and bring them to justice, no matter where they are."

"Transnational organized criminal networks continue to victimize U.S. citizens and threaten the financial infrastructure of the United States," Secret Service Office of Investigations Assistant Director Jeremy Sheridan said. "The Secret Service, alongside our partner agencies, works tirelessly in its global investigative mission to dismantle these groups and arrest those who lead them. We are proud to be a part of the international law enforcement mission to combat all forms of financial crimes and thank all those involved in this investigation. The U.S. Secret Service extends its gratitude the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service for its assistance."

"Foreign nationals who think they can hide in another country or in cyberspace while preying on our citizens need to know one thing," Special Agent in Charge George M. Crouch Jr. said. "The FBI has a global footprint and will use every resource available to protect the American people. The strong working relationship among our federal and international law enforcement partners allows us to reach across geographical boundaries. In other words, anyone who thinks they can avoid American justice simply by operating outside the United States should rethink their strategy."

According to documents filed in these cases:

Perry Osagiede, Izevbigie, Franklyn Osagiede, Clement, Otughwor, and Mudashiru (the "Black Axe defendants") were all leaders of the Neo Black Movement of Africa, also known as "Black Axe," an organization headquartered in Benin City, Nigeria that operates in various countries. The Black Axe is organized into regional chapters known as "zones," and the defendants were all leaders within the Cape Town, South Africa, Zone. Perry Osagiede founded the Cape Town Zone of Black Axe and worked as its zonal head, along with Izevbigie. The Black Axe defendants and other members of Black Axe took part in, and openly discussed, fraud schemes amongst their membership.

From at least 2011 through 2021, the Black Axe defendants and other conspirators worked together from Cape Town to engage in widespread internet fraud involving romance scams and advance fee schemes. Many of these fraudulent narratives involved claims that an individual was traveling to South Africa for work and needed money or other items of value following a series of unfortunate and unforeseen events, often involving a construction site or problems with a crane. The conspirators used social media websites, online dating websites, and voice over internet protocol phone numbers to find and talk with victims in the United States, while using a number of aliases.

The conspirators' romance scam victims believed they were in romantic relationships with the person using the alias and, when requested, the victims sent money and items of value overseas, including to South Africa. Sometimes, when victims expressed hesitation in sending money, the conspirators used manipulative tactics to coerce the payments, including by threatening to distribute personally sensitive photographs of the victim.

The conspirators used the bank accounts of victims and individuals with U.S.-based financial accounts to transfer the money to South Africa. On certain occasions, the conspirators convinced victims to open financial accounts in the United States that the conspirators would then be permitted to use themselves. In addition to laundering money derived from romance scams and advance fee schemes, the conspirators also worked to launder money from business email compromise schemes. In addition to their aliases, the conspirators used business entities to conceal and disguise the illegal nature of the funds.

Otubu also engaged in romance scams and used the victims of those scams to obtain money and to launder the proceeds of business email compromises back to South Africa. Otubu conspired with an individual identified in the criminal complaint as Co-conspirator 1, who was a founding member and leader of the Cape Town Zone of Black Axe.

The wire fraud conspiracy and wire fraud charges each carry a maximum term of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. The money laundering conspiracy charge carries a maximum term of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$500,000 or twice the value of the property involved in the transaction, whichever is greatest. The aggravated identity theft charges carry a mandatory term of two years in prison, which must run consecutively to any other term of imprisonment imposed on a defendant.

Seven defendants were arrested in South Africa yesterday by the South African Police Service. Those defendants had their initial appearances in South Africa and are awaiting extradition to the United States on these charges. Both cases are before U.S. District Judge Michael A. Shipp in Trenton federal court.

Anyone who believes they may be a victim may visit <https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/blackaxe> for information about the case, including a questionnaire for victims to fill out and submit.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge George M. Crouch Jr. in Newark; and the FBI Legal Attaché Office at the United States Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, under the direction of Legal Attaché Jennifer Snell Dent; special agents of the U.S. Secret Service, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Mark McKeivitt in Newark, Special Agent in Charge John Hamby in Seattle, Resident Agent in Charge Michael K. Burgin in the Pretoria Resident Office and Special Agent in Charge Jason Kane of the Criminal Investigative Division, with the investigation leading to the charges.

Acting U.S. Attorney Honig also thanked the South African Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI) HAWKS, the South African Police Service, the South African National Prosecuting Authority & Asset Forfeiture Unit, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development for the Republic of South Africa, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs, and Interpol for their valuable assistance in this case.

This case is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) Priority Transnational Organized Crime (PTOC) investigation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jamie L. Hoxie and Vera Varshavsky of the Cybercrime Unit in Newark.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictments are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Attachment(s):

[Download OsagiedeEtAl.indictment.pdf](#)
[Download Otubu.Indictment.pdf](#)

Topic(s):

Financial Fraud
Identity Theft

Component(s):

[USAO - New Jersey](#)

Press Release Number:

21-471