

Hello Valerie,

I have reviewed all of the materials you provided. Upon review, it is evident this is a more sophisticated group with many of the transfers being sent to Hong Kong. This is dissimilar from many of the historical fraud schemes. The actors involved in this scheme might be an organized crime group operating out of countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia or Vietnam. These are all proximate to Thailand, the original country of reference to your so-called criminal violation. It is possible these schemes are being operated by organized crime groups with ties to China. There is also suspicion these activities might be occurring with state-sponsorship.

The recovery companies are not legitimate and should be avoided. These will only serve to be a distraction or another direct loss of money with no benefit, no recovery. As you see, these companies are represented to be based out of Israel as I had stated during our conversation.

In reviewing the information you have forwarded to date, I see certain transfers that present leads for investigation. The transfers to Hong Kong cannot be eliminated as leads, but they are unlikely to yield tangible results on a cost-effective basis. Working with a limited budget, we would be more focused on other leads that present better likelihood of benefit. There are other details in your possession we would be interested to work with to include phony documents, email addresses and the full content of various communications - particularly those with wiring instructions. The sequence and dates of events is also relevant to proper analysis and understanding of the evolution of the scheme. This can provide insight into problems the actors might have encountered during the course of the scheme and there changes in destinations for your funds transfers.

This is not an easy case. It should be investigated by law enforcement. Cases of this type have national security implications.

In review of your communications with PNC, I believe they dropped the ball. You engaged in an ongoing and extensive amount of communications and activities involving PNC that should have triggered multiple red flags. I believe a good law firm would have a field day with this in pursuing a remedy from the bank. That mount of initial investigation could provide certain benefits. The goal is an option.

I believe for a limited time would be to establish further information related to the actors and certain recipient companies and individuals. The investigation would be limited in scope and the results cannot be guaranteed as this is a very difficult circumstance. Nevertheless, beneficial information might be produced. Any findings can have a potential benefit in gaining assistance from law enforcement or providing more insight to any other party working to provide assistance (i.e. law firm).

Best regards,  
Douglas A. Roth  
Director of Investigations

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