

NAPSA Scam Advice Forum May 2026

Topic: Black Axe and Transnational Fraud Networks originating from Nigeria and beyond

Guest: Jeff Thomson, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), is the acting Officer in Charge of the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC). Over a 24-year career at the CAFC, he has developed significant expertise in financial crime investigations, including money laundering, mass marketing fraud, identity theft, and emerging cyber enabled fraud schemes.

Co-Hosts: Steve Baker and Debbie Deem

Sign up for Steve's weekly 'www.Bakerfraudreport.com' for news/trends/ arrests/prosecutions worldwide on transnational organized crime frauds/scams.

National Elder Fraud Hotline (U.S. DOJ) 1-833-372-8311 National federal hotline for adults 60 and over to report fraud and providing support and resources/safety tips. Help with filing IC3 and FTC reports. Language line. <https://ovc.ojp.gov/program/stop-elder-fraud/providing-help-restoring-hope>

Report Fraud to Local Police/Adult Protective Services (APS) as Well as One or More of These Federal Govt. Databases/Agencies

- www.ic3.gov FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center
- www.reportfraud.ftc.gov Federal Trade Commission
- www.identitytheft.gov Report Identity Theft to the FTC
- <https://www.uspis.gov/report> U.S Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) 1-877-876-2455
- If Crypto Investment Confidence Fraud/Crypto-Relationship Investment (Pig Butchering)- contact local U.S. Secret Service office, in addition filing a complaint with CryptoFraud@SecretService.gov and www.ic3.gov.
- FBI Guidance for Crypto-Currency Fraud Victims in Completing an IC3 report <https://www.ic3.gov/Media/Y2023/PSA230824>

National Association of Consumer Advocates (NACA) To find a consumer law attorney who specializes in various consumer rights/fraud victimization
<https://www.consumeradvocates.org/findanattorney/>

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys <https://www.naela.org/>

2025 Recent IRS Advice on Taxing Stolen Money:

- <https://www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/news/nta-blog/irs-chief-counsel-advice-on-theft-loss-deductions-for-scam-victims/2025/04>
- <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/newsroom/cfpb-finalizes-rule-on-federal-oversight-of-popular-digital-payment-apps-to-protect-personal-data-reduce-fraud-and-stop-illegal-debanking/>

Resources and Additional Information Related to The Topic For This Month

Canadian Anti-Fraud Center Toll free: 1-888-495-8501 The Centre collects information/complaints on fraud and identity theft and provides information on past and current frauds affecting Canadians.
<https://antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/index-eng.htm>

Interpol- Overview of Serious and Organized Crime in West Africa
<https://www.interpol.int/content/download/10235/file/West%20Africa.pdf>

West African Criminal Networks:
https://www.academia.edu/37084552/West_African_Criminal_Networks

Black Axe-Nigeria's Most Notorious Transnational Criminal Organization
<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/black-axe-nigeria-transnational-organized-crime/>

BBC Reports

- World's police in technological arms race with Nigerian mafia
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c984w8jr1glo>
- The Ultra-Violent Cult That Became a Global Mafia <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-59614595>

Sampling of Recent Arrests and Prosecutions

- [Europol Supports Hits Against Black Axe Criminal Organization in Switzerland, 10 Arrests](https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/europol-supports-hit-against-black-axe-criminal-organisation-in-switzerland-10-arrests)
<https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/europol-supports-hit-against-black-axe-criminal-organisation-in-switzerland-10-arrests>
- Texas 2021 <https://therecord.media/us-arrests-33-bec-scammers-linked-to-nigerian-crime-syndicate>
- Prominent Leader of Black Axe Extradited To US For Conspiring To Engage In Internet Scams and Money Laundering (Shows we are extraditing and how long these criminals have been operating) <https://www.justice.gov/usao-nj/pr/prominent-leader-black-axe-extradited-united-states-conspiring-engage-internet-scams-and>
- Canadian Leader of Complex Nigerian Fraud and Money Laundering Ring Sentenced (Extradition from Canada and sentenced). <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/canadian-leader-complex-nigerian-fraud-and-money-laundering-ring-sentenced>
- Seven Arrested in Toronto Area as Part of Global Fraud Investigation
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/operation-jackal-iii-toronto-seven-arrests-1.7270004>

Free National Resources and Online Fraud Support Programs

- **AARP Fraud Support Groups and Helpline** Support for those victimized and family members of these frauds, special groups for romance scams. Includes the Fraud Watch Network where trained volunteers respond to inquiries about fraud at 877-908-3360: You don't have to be AARP member, no age restriction.
 - To register for the free support groups https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/fraud-victim-support-group/?cmp=RDRCT-CSN-FRD-NEW-SUPPORT_GROUP_PAGE
- **FightCyberCrime** www.fightcybercrime.org Free romance imposter fraud and crypto investment online peer support programs, all ages. Includes online support and information for many types of online frauds. <https://fightcybercrime.org/programs/romance-scam-recovery-group/>
- **Fraud Awareness Network** offers weekly peer-to-peer program for those victimized age 60 and over, facilitated by Lifespan of NY'. fraudnetwork@lifespanrochester.org or call 585-244-8400
- **Give An Hour** Free online support programs for victims and loved ones with peer support, all ages. <https://giveanhour.org/financial-fraud/>
- **Cathy Wilson, Therapist** <https://www.scamsurvivorhealing.com/>
 - Includes free YouTube video series for those victimized, and resources/videos for family members, mental health professionals, law enforcement, etc. <https://www.scamsurvivorhealing.com>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/@fraudpsychology/videos>
 - Mental health therapists: Learn about classes and certification for working with victims of fraud at www.fraudpsychology.org
- **Identity Theft Resource Center** www.idtheftcenter.org provides free crime victim identity theft assistance through a toll-free call center, live chat, website, podcasts, and social media.
- **Operation Shamrock** <https://www.operationshamrock.org/> Resource for those victimized in crypto investment/romance transnational crimes. Includes link to possibly help trace digital money. Bimonthly online meeting forum for those victimized and helpers.
- Ted Talk, Kathy Stokes, AARP **Let's Talk About How We Talk About Fraud.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZfZSUbDYFg>
- **Words Matter: Improving Outcomes for Crime Victims** https://www.finrafoundation.org/sites/finrafoundation/files/AARP-FINRA-Foundation_Words%20Matter_Say_This.pdf
- **National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** Dial or text to '988' or 1-800-273-8255
 - <https://988lifeline.org/>