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IRS agents in scams that have persisted for more than three years. Victims lost more than \$2 million and were contacted by phone and told they owed back taxes or other fees.

May. 25, 2016



Federal agents have arrested five people who are facing charges of impersonating IRS agents in scams that have persisted for more than three years. Victims were often contacted by phone and told they owed back taxes or other fees.

J. Russell George, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA), announced the arrests, which were made by TIGTA agents in Miami, Florida on May 23. Charges also include wire fraud and conspiracy to commit wire fraud. According to the court documents, the suspects are responsible for almost \$2 million in schemes that defrauded more than 1,500 victims.

“These arrests indicate that TIGTA is making significant progress in our

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the District of Minnesota on May 18, 2016 (Yaritza Diaz and Roberto Caballero); the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas on May 16, 2016 (Arnoldo Mirabal); and the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas on May 10, 2016 (Jennifer Nunez and Dennis Caballero).

According to the court documents, the suspects knowingly conspired with others to commit wire fraud by falsely impersonating IRS agents and demanding money under such false pretenses. Victims received telephone calls from people claiming to be from the IRS, who told them the IRS would arrest them if they did not make payment immediately. The callers made these threats and used other methods of intimidation to persuade the victims to wire money, utilizing MoneyGram, Walmart–2–Walmart, and other wire services.

“No legitimate United States Treasury or IRS official will demand that anyone make payments via MoneyGram, Western Union, Walmart–2–Walmart, or any other money wiring method, for any debt to the IRS or the Department of the Treasury,” George said.

“Nor will the Department of the Treasury demand that anyone pay a debt or secure one by using iTunes cards or other prepaid debit cards,” he said, adding, “Hang up on these fraudulent callers and go to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) scam [reporting page](#) to report the call,” he added.

Investigators verified the identity of the suspects and their activities through a variety of investigative procedures. TIGTA Special Agents conducted the investigations that led to the arrests of the suspects. TIGTA received assistance in one of the investigations from the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General.

The suspects have been referred to the appropriate Office of the U.S. Attorney, U.S.

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