

WANTED BY THE FBI

Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, Money Laundering, Passport Fraud, and Trafficking in Counterfeit Service Marks; Wire Fraud; Money Laundering; Passport Fraud; Trafficking in Counterfeit Service Marks

NICOLAE POPESCU



Aliases: Niculae Popescu, Nicolae Petrache, Nae Popescu, "Nae", "Stoichitoiu"

DESCRIPTION

Date(s) of Birth Used: February 6, 1980	Hair: Brown
Place of Birth: Alexandria, Romania	Eyes: Green
Height: 5'10" (178 cm)	Sex: Male
Weight: 187 pounds (85 kg)	Race: White
NCIC: W216389854	Nationality: Romanian

Remarks: Popescu speaks Romanian. He may have travelled to Europe.

CAUTION

Nicolae Popescu is wanted for his alleged participation in a sophisticated Internet Fraud scheme where criminal enterprise conspirators, based in Romania and elsewhere in Europe, posted advertisements on Internet auction market sites for merchandise for sale. Such advertisements contained images and descriptions of vehicles and other items for sale, but those items did not really exist. Conspirators posing as sellers then negotiated via e-mail with unsuspecting buyers in the United States. These "sellers" sent fraudulent invoices, that appeared to be from legitimate online payment services, to the victim buyers, with instructions for payment to bank accounts held by other conspirators in the United States. These conspirators opened United States bank accounts under false identities using fraudulent passports made in Europe by other conspirators. When victims wired money to an account identified on the false invoices, the conspirator associated with that account would be notified and then would withdraw the proceeds and send them via wire transfer to another conspirator based on e-mailed instructions.

A federal arrest warrant was issued for Nicolae Popescu on December 20, 2012, in the United States District Court, Eastern District of New York, Brooklyn, New York, after he was charged by indictment for Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, Money Laundering, Passport Fraud, and Trafficking in Counterfeit Service Marks; Wire Fraud; Money Laundering; Passport Fraud; and Trafficking in Counterfeit Service Marks.

REWARD

The United States Department of State's Transnational Organized Crime Rewards Program is offering a reward of up to \$1 million for information leading to the arrest and/or conviction of Nicolae Popescu.

If you have any information concerning this case, and you are outside the United States, please contact the nearest American Embassy or Consulate. Inside the United States, please contact your local FBI office or the FBI's Toll Free Tipline at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324). You may also submit a tip online at: tips.fbi.gov.