

Note: this revealing and amazing information was kindly sent to the Translator Scammers Intelligence Group by the owner of a European Translation company

Arnold Matta – Scambusting + Investigation

This is the history and results of a scam investigation performed against “Arnold Matta”, with the help of a bogus website translation job.

1. History

On August 19, 2015 we received an email (Subject: *Application to collaborate as French Translator*) from arnold.fre@gmail.com where Arnold Matta claims to be “a native French speaker with a background in Translation Advertising” [**translation advertising?!?**]. The email was received with a CV attached: *FrenchCV.pdf*.

Noticing that Arnold Matta is already listed on the Translator Scammers Directory as Arnold Matta (Scammer) / arnold.fre@gmail.com (scammer’s email) – Segolène-Armelle-Marie Neilson (UK) (victim), we started digging in what we had on our desk:

– The CV received *FrenchCV.pdf* (author: cc / Created on: September 23, 2014) is actually a copy and partial impersonation of Ms. Ségolène-Armelle-Marie Neilson’s CV, downloaded from her ProZ profile at www.ProZ.com/profile/48424) with modified name, land and email address, phone removed, and added parts from Tony Walters’ CV (downloaded from his ProZ profile at www.ProZ.com/profile/110954), Kathryn J. Litherland’s CV (downloaded from her ProZ profile at www.ProZ.com/profile/113279), and others.

The address stated on the CV received is “24 allée du Curtil 71580 FRONTENAUD, France”, which is not a valid address since it should be 24 Curtil Geron, 71580 Frontenaud, France; GMaps satellite view provides this:

www.google.com/maps/place/24+Curtil+Geron,+71580+Frontenaud,+Francia/@46.5561456,5.2920543,191m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m7!1m4!3m3!1s0x47f32df230599845:0x13aec56deae703!2s24+Curtil+Geron,+71580+Frontenaud,+Francia!3b1!3m1!1s0x47f32df230599845:0x13aec56deae703

Google search for *arnold+matta*+translator gives Translator Scammers Directory results and a link to www.outsourcetranslation.com/viewTranslator.aspx?id=3818 where we can find the same fake/bogus CV. No “Arnold Matta” profiles on Translation Directory or Translators Café.

Arnold Matta is a ghost created by scammers.

On Mon, Aug 24, 2015 at 10:37 PM we sent an availability check for HTML pages translation, and received a positive/interested reply; then, we send a quotation request and after a few emails (he didn’t understand what was asked, he made errors in counting words, etc.) a final quotation of 4200 Euros for the translation of 69 HTML files.

On Fri, Aug 28, 2015 at 1:50 PM, we decide to confirm the job via email, but we asked Mr. “Arnold Matta” to deliver files in *batches of 5-6 or folders, as soon as completed, so that we can check the correct formatting/encoding, etc.* This will put us in a position to immediately understand:

a) Whether “Arnold Matta” is scamming us with a Google Translation → thus we can play with him forever, with no damage to third parties)

b) Whether “Arnold Matta” is scamming anybody on the other side, supplying a good/acceptable translation → thus we must make up a reason to stop him, to avoid having a poor translator working for weeks just because we want to bust the scammer (and yes, the poor translator wouldn’t have been paid this time anyway, and will be scammed next time “Arnold Matta” will contact him with a new job, but we won’t be the ones having our hands dirty from his sweat).

Our happy scammer “Arnold Matta” starts delivering files on 31/08/2015. Google translated. Not even fully translated (he doesn’t know Html, and MetaDescription, MetaKeywords, Alt Tags, Link Titles, as well as full sentences here and there have been left in English), and ill-formatted (all the layout to the left, some DIVs slipped to the bottom. We let him deliver batches of files Google translated (at least he’s doing something) and have the job completed on Thu, Sep 24, 2015 at 6:39 PM.

On Friday, September 25, 2015 7:29 PM he immediately sends an invoice (Invoice15-30.doc – Author: Fadi2000 / Company: HKRG) where payee name is Arnold Matta (without further data/info) with email arnold.fre@gmail.com and payment is requested via PayPal at nickmano.pay@gmail.com

We asked to have the invoice with our Company data as customer (providing them – in any case they are public on our website). And with his full name (Arnold Matta) and/or company name (Black and White Language Services?), registered address and VAT code. Here comes a second invoice (Invoice15-30[2]. doc – Author: Fadi2000 / Company: HKRG) where payee name is Arnold Matta with email arnold.fre@gmail.com address 24 allée du Curtil 71580 FRONTENAUD, France, and payment is requested via PayPal at nickmano.pay@gmail.com . Bold statement **“I don’t have VAT No.”**

On Sat, Sep 26, 2015 at 3:21 PM we send an email telling him that:

You must have a TVA/VAT for invoices...In particular since you – as stated in your CV – are trading under Black and White Language Services.

He replies that **“I have moved into Canada two years ago, there is no taxes here, [??? Hey Canadians, you never told me that!!] I gave you my registered address in France, if you insist to, I can use VAT Number in France but no longer use it.”**

And here starts a long to-ing and from-ing where we explain that in Canada taxes does exist, he must have a VAT ID or a SIN number, and we need an invoice with his real address and this information stated.

On Saturday, September 26, 2015 3:03 PM here we are with a third invoice (Invoice15-30[3].doc – Author: Fadi2000 / Company: HKRG) where payee name is Arnold Matta with email arnold.fre@gmail.com , address 4018 rue Garneau, Quebec, QC G1V 3V5 Canada, SIN 097 353 031, and payment is requested via PayPal always at nickmano.pay@gmail.com . Well, at least he should have researched a bit to make up this.

Unfortunately (for him):

a) 4018 rue Garneau, Quebec, QC G1V 3V5 Canada is in the middle of a Public Park, as per www.google.com/maps/place/Rue+Garneau,+Qu%C3%A9bec,+QC+G1R,+Canada/@46.800358,-71.219401,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x4cb895d4fa2e6b5d:0xf854c275f158d7cc no houses or buildings there.

b) The SIN number provided, 097353031, appears to be *invalid* when verified on www.payroll.ca/CPA/Resources/Tools/SIN/en/sin.aspx

A few days busy with other more important things to do and On Sun, Oct 4, 2015 at 5:05 PM we tell him that the SIN is invalid and the address is a green area in a Public park. He replies telling us that:

“I am very surprised to hear that, as I said before I don't have any VAT number, I am running a small home business, also, I am not subjected to VAT so I don't use it. For SIN numebr, I gave you my ID card just to solve this issue.” Notice no mention of the public park address he gave.

We reply telling him:

>> I don't have any VAT number

We are not talking about VAT

>> For SIN numebr, I gave you my ID card

Do you understand/know what's a SIN number in Canada? BTW, the number provided is not an ID card number. Also noticed that you didn't comment on the fact that the address provided in your invoice (rue Garneau, Quebec) is a green area in a public park

Silence for a few days... Then, on Wednesday, October 07, 2015 9:22 AM he replies with:

“Sorry for my late reply, I was in a hospital the last two days, I was very sick but now I am better. About SIN and registered address, it's not mine, I don't have SIN number but I have an address in Canada, I can provide an valid SIN if it's fine. However, as I said, I running a small business so I don't provide any VAT No and not registered with SIN, your requirments is too difficult, I usually send my invoice with a PayPal address and they pay without any previous requirments but your company requires SIN or VAT which I don't have but only I can provide a valid SIN or VAT”

It appears he starts getting confused and lacking new ideas about what to send, but hey, he lives in the middle of a Public Park in Quebec, it's cold out there: we understand why he was sick.

But no, we are bad, and on Wed, Oct 7, 2015 at 11:02 AM we send an email with:

Dear Mr. Matta,

>> I don't have any VAT number

Again, we are not talking about VAT

>> not registered with SIN,

Again, do you understand/know what's a SIN number in Canada? Every Canadian resident has a SIN number. Also noticed that you didn't comment on the fact that the address provided in your invoice (rue Garneau, Quebec) is a green area in a public park.

On Wednesday, October 07, 2015 12:58 PM he replies with:

“I don't have SIN number because I am not a Canadian citizen, I only have tourism Visa in Canada, [Hey, and the ID Card number then?] I gave you the address of the nearest park of me because it's beside the hotel which I am staying. [Sure, being in a hotel you put on your invoices an address in the middle of nowhere since it's beside the hotel] I asked many translators in here and translation websites, you don't have the right to give such personal information for any client. Anyway, I am going to stay with a friend of mine then I can provide an address. Dear XXXX, look, I did my best for your project although the bad conditions that I am getting here, please try to make the payment soon so I can pay the expenses of my life.”

OK let's close this story (we thought). On Wed, Oct 7, 2015 at 1:11 PM we write him:

Dear Mr. Matta,

1) You said before that you moved in Canada 2 years ago, and now you say you have a tourist visa in Canada? That's impossible.

2) You say you gave the address of the nearest park to your hotel? Do you understand what you are saying?

Fact is that you provided a false/forged invoice, you provided false and misleading information, and you are still lying about your status. These are criminal offences in Canada (as well as in most Countries).

Payment is blocked, will not be performed, and all correspondence will be in the hands of our lawyer who will provide it to Canadian authorities and Interpol.

Silence! He understood (we thought). No, we are wrong. On Saturday, October 10, 2015 2:03 PM he pops up with another email:

***“Hello XXXX,
I thank you for your patient, I have asked my colleague who helped me with your project to send his data, he said it's ok, I am providing an invoice with name of my colleague who helped me, so kindly pay me the invoice as all information is belong to him now. Check the attached file”***

The *attached file* is another invoice (Invoice15-30[4]. doc – Author: Fadi2000 / Company: HKRG) where payee name is Saïd lemonier, Address: 19 Route du Miroir, 89320 Theil sur Vanne, France, SIRET N°: 50988564600018 but with email arnold.fre@gmail.com and payment is requested via PayPal to davidmaslopa@gmail.com

OK, we have a new PayPal address. We also have another ghost identity? No, Saïd Lemonnier does exist, and keeps profiles at:

www.translatorscafe.com/cafe/member118926.htm and www.ProZ.com/profile/1043444 (and already referenced by the Translator Scammers Directory as a recipient for scammers' payments in France for, e.g.. ghost “Eric Begone”). Saïd is actually registered as resident at 19 Route du Miroir, Theil sur Vanne, 89320, France, and the SIRET corresponds to him as per: www.societe.com/societe/monsieur-sa-d-lemonnier-509885646.html

We replied that:

I am informing our accountant and copy all conversations to him. He will investigate payment possibilities and the info/data provided and will get back with a reply. Please note it will take some time, since it's the first time we have such a strange/complicated situation.

One month passes without follow-ups from Mr: Arnold Matta

On Saturday, November 07, 2015 11:09 AM Mr. Matta sends another email:

***“Dear XXXX,
When will you send my payment? According to my invoice, it's more than 30 days now.
Look forward to get my payment today.”***

He's a hard-headed scammer uh? Here's our reply:

Dear Mr. Matta,

Our accounting Dept., after having submitted the situation to the Italian Fiscal Authority, has blocked the payment. We need:

1) An invoice from Arnold Matta, with full data and VAT ID or Fiscal Code (French or Canadian)

2) Bank details where to wire the payment.

Please note that these are Italian Fiscal Authority dispositions now, not ours, and cannot be discussed/changed/tweaked. Awaiting your reply with the requested info and documents

and immediately received his reply:

“First of all, we already agreed for payment method from our first conversation which is PayPal, changing your mind, Legally, this is consider out of agreement. Secondly, I put my friend fiscal code as we agreed, you accept it. Thirdly, your Italian Fiscal Authority, it applies for you not me, now I care about my payment, about 20 days of hard working and another month waiting my payment, please have a solution for this matter, you must pay me before end of this week”

to which we repled again with:

>> First of all, we already agreed for payment method from our first conversation which is PayPal,

On Fri, Aug 28, 2015 at 2:54 PM, we said "we accept any regular payment method."

>> Secondly, I put my friend fiscal code as we agreed, you accept it

We never accepted it. This is irregular, and the invoice is legally void.

>> Thirdly, your [country] Fiscal Authority, it applies for you not me

No, it applies to you since you are supplying a service to an [country] Company.

As we said, based on instructions of the [country] Fiscal Authority, we need:

1) An invoice from Arnold Matta, with full data and VAT ID or Fiscal Code (French or Canadian)

2) Bank details where to wire the payment.

Please note that this cannot be further discussed/changed/tweaked

and his reply reaches us after a while:

“Ok, I will share this issue with all translation sites, ProZ, translation-directory and translators base, make sure if I didn't get my payment, your company will be put in black list.”

Now we think the story is closed, but no, as we said, he's a hard-headed scammer.

On Mon, September 09, he takes the time to:

a) Register an account at ProZ: www.ProZ.com/profile/2137892 (now removed by ProZ. Staff)

b) Fill a non-payment report in our ProZ Blue Board

We had therefore to submit a request to ProZ site Staff, who asked us a copy of the email correspondence with headers, and on Tue, September 10, removed the non-payment report from our BB, informing us that proper action has been taken, and then removed the profile of the scammer. They showed to be quick, effective, and supporting.

2. Results of the Scambusting + Investigation

a) We had the scammer sweating to provide the translation, discuss, find solutions and new way to have his story accepted, open profiles... doing something unusual for him, that is, *working*.

b) We have a single email used by the scammer since August 2015: arnold.fre@gmail.com

c) We have a CV where we can see that he impersonates (using legit CVs' info) at least 3 translators:

Ms. Ségolène-Armelle-Marie Neilson, ProZ profile www.ProZ.com/profile/48424

Mr. Tony Walters, ProZ profile www.ProZ.com/profile/110954

Ms. Kathryn J. Litherland, ProZ profile www.ProZ.com/profile/113279

d) We have 2 PayPal addresses used by the scammer to get paid:

nickmano.pay@gmail.com

davidmaslopa@gmail.com

e) We have info about another partner/accomplice, Saïd Lemonier, Address: 19 Route du Miroir, 89320 Theil sur Vanne, France, SIRET N°: 50988564600018

Closing note by the Translator Scammers Intelligence Group:

Ghost Arnold Matta is known to use/have used these email addresses:

arnoldmatta7@gmail.com

arnold.fre@gmail.com

dd17586@gmail.com

mattaa587@gmail.com