

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

Ivan Jorge – Scambusting + Investigation

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

1. History

On August 19, 2015 we received an email from worldtranslator951@gmail.com where Ivan Jorge claims to be **“a graduate in Italian and French and have spent more than 25 years working as a technical translator from Italian into English following five years living and working in Turin, Italy”**.

— The CV received, *Ivan Jorge.pdf* (File Author: Preferred Customer), is actually a blatant copy and full impersonation of translator Jean Martin (UK), with modified name, slightly modified address, and email + phone removed.

— The address stated on the CV is *“564 Gartmoor Gdns, Wimbledon Park, London SW20 6NX”*, which is not a valid address since 564 is too high a number for Gartmoor Gardens and the postal code should be SW19 6NX, not SW20 6NX.

— Google search for *“Ivan Jorge translator”* gives no translation-related results at all: odd, for someone having **spent more than 25 years working as a technical translator from Italian into English**. No “Ivan Jorge” profiles in ProZ, Translation Directory or Translators Café: **Ivan Jorge is a ghost in the translation world...** Well not really a ghost, since Ivan Jorge is the name of a Brazilian mixed martial artist, with plenty of results about him on Google, but we’re pretty sure he’s not the one sending emails applying for translation jobs...

— On February 2016, a Google search for *“Ivan Jorge translator”* gives Translator Scammers Directory results. Still no “Ivan Jorge” profiles in ProZ, Translation Directory or Translators Café. And, of course, no translation-related results at all.

On Wed, Aug 26, 2015 at 3:58 PM we sent an availability check for HTML pages translation, and received a positive/interested reply. Later, we sent a quotation request and after a few emails we received a final quotation of **20600 Euros for the translation of 289 HTML files and a total of 357,877 words** (151,683 no match and 206,740 reps). Delivery delay: 17 days (17 days ???). This means translating some 20,000 words per day...or having a team of 10 translators delivering 2,000 words per day)

On Fri, Aug 28, 2015 at 5:49 PM, we decided to confirm the job via email, but we asked “Ivan Jorge” 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 would put us in a position to immediately understand:

a) Whether “Ivan Jorge” is scamming us with a Google-made translation → thus we can play with him forever, with no damage to third parties;

b) Whether “Ivan Jorge” 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 could even have been paid this time, but will be scammed next time “Ivan Jorge” will contact him with a new job, but we won’t be the ones having our hands dirty from his sweat). “Ivan Jorge” takes up the job with an email confirmation on Friday, August 28, 2015 6:20 PM.

On Friday, August 28, 2015 8:36 PM “Ivan Jorge” sent us an email telling us that **“After reading you instruction and payments method, I realize that you're making payment via wire transfer, can you please make the payment via PayPal as I faced some issues with my bank account now”**. We reply that we can pay via PayPal. **Of course, we thought how someone can even think that we would have used PayPal for a 20,600 Euros transfer...** But hey, scammers are like that.

Our happy scammer “Ivan Jorge” starts delivering files and starts using a new email (ivanjorgei33@gmail.com). **Google translated, of course.** Not even fully translated (he doesn’t know HTML, thus Meta Description, Meta Keywords, Alt Tags, Link Titles, aren’t translated). We let him deliver batches of Google-translated files (at least he’s busy doing something).

On Thursday, September 17, 2015 4:27 PM “Ivan Jorge” asked for a deadline extension to 25 September. Well, why not? We reply yes, of course, we want a quality job and won’t put him in a hurry.

On Thursday, October 01, 2015 10:25 AM “Ivan Jorge claimed that due to an error in the calculation, there are 400,000 words in the files (Trados made an error?) and that the deadline should be further extended. Sure, we replied, time is not an issue, we just want quality...

To make a long story short, we continued receiving files from “Ivan Jorge” in October, November, and December. We noticed heavy variations in the language used in email communication (terminology, syntax, punctuation, etc, all change by the week), showing that it’s always a different “Ivan Jorge” communicating with us. Either the ghost is actually a bunch of brainless scammers/ghosts, or they kept passing the “good customer” to each other.

On Thursday, December 17, 2015 3:56 PM “Ivan” sent an email with *“the remainder of the Italian project”*. We immediately replied with a Word file containing the full list of files marked as either “Delivered” or “Missing”: total of 48 files missing (most of them in the root). While passing the custody to each other, they lost track of what has been done, what’s missing, etc.

New forecast for completion: January 17, 2016. Hey, it looks like “Ivan Jorge” will have to copy-paste stuff in Google translator forever...

On Wednesday, December 30, 2015 6:09 PM we received an email from “Ivan Jorge” (always from ivanjorgei33@gmail.com) telling us **“Our accountant will send you the invoice soon”**. Accountant? Invoice? Either he’s talking with the wrong customer (the

job isn't completed, and we didn't send him our data for the invoice) or he's a new ghost of the bunch writing who didn't understand who's doing what with whom and for whom.

No, wait, after a few minutes here's a mail from a "Paolo Rega" / drpaoloregaa@gmail.com with an invoice: "Paolo Rega" – Via Nazionale 112 – 80143 Napoli, United Kingdom / VAT Number: 08030911211 – requesting payment to a PayPal account: drpaoloregaa@gmail.com. We are pleased to discover that the City of Naples (Napoli) was moved to the UK. You British will be pleased, too: look how many tourists asking for *pizza napoletana*!

Questioned about what happened, "Ivan Jorge" (or whoever was the person writing) replied that ***drpaoloregaa@gmail.com is their account's email***. Really?

Quick online investigation and we find that Dr. Paolo Rega (Napoli, Italia) is a **legitimate translator** with email drpaolorega(@)gmail.com (notice drpaolorega(@)gmail.com is the legit/correct email and drpaoloregaa@gmail.com is the fake/scammer's email and PayPal account) and his VAT number is actually 08030911211. We write to the real Paolo Rega to his legitimate email address (one-final-"a"), asking him whether he had sent us an invoice for an IT>EN website translation job and why, and we receive a reply from his legitimate email address telling us that ***never worked on an IT>EN website translation for us, and never sent any invoice for such job***. Later, we spoke on the phone with Dr. Paolo Rega, and partially explain him what happened, getting from him further assurance that he is the real "Paolo" corresponding with us and that he never sent us any invoice.

At this point, it is clear that "Ivan Jorge" (Ivan Jorge-scamming group):

- a) Partially impersonated a real/legitimate UK translator (Jean Martin) with a copied CV, from the very beginning.
- b) Used a fake identity (Ivan Jorge) from the very beginning.
- c) Performed a job with several bad/automatic/improper/unformatted translations, depending on who was taking care of the files and who was managing the whole "job".
- d) Impersonated another real/legit Italian translator (Paolo Rega) with **FULL IDENTITY THEFT (personal and fiscal data)**, even creating the bogus Gmail account drpaoloregaa@gmail.com and using it as a PayPal ID to collect payments.
- e) Clearly showed in his/their multiple emails that "Ivan Jorge" (or whoever was behind the writing):

- don't know/use Italian language, not a single word of it;
- is not a translator and don't know HTML specifics and formatting;
- is not a native English speaker (the kind of errors, vocabulary, syntax in all emails, show they should be Arabic speakers);

We are now willing to push it further, and see how we can squeeze more data/information from this bunch of scammers. Let's wait for the job completion and make their lives a bit more difficult with payments and invoicing stuff. We are that bad, after all.

We spent the first 12 days of January receiving bunch of files, partially already delivered (by now, there should be a mess in their computer folders, since it's clear they don't know what they have already "translated", what's missing, etc.). The current "Ivan Jorge" doesn't even remember/know anything about previous conversations...

On Tuesday, January 12, 2016 6:49 PM the job is "completed" (or at least we accepted the "completion" email with the delivery of a few extra files).

On Monday, January 18, 2016 11:52 AM we received from ivanjorgei33@gmail.com (with drpaoloregaa@gmail.com in CC) an email with the invoice. Same identical invoice as the previously sent one.

We sent an email stating that:

1) We need an invoice with our full company data.

2) We need an invoice with YOUR full data, containing:

Name: Ivan Jorge / Address (564 Gartmoor Gdns, Wimbledon Park, London SW20 6NX, United Kingdom) / Your UK VAT or Fiscal Code (since we are also based in Europe, we added...)

3) We need a scan of your ID document (ID card or Passport) for ID verification.

"Ivan Jorge" emails us email stating that:

- **They are a group of translators, and don't have VAT;**
- **He doesn't have VAT;**
- **He is in a critical situation, and we should understand and pay;**

After 10 days of coming and going, we decided to put an end to this story and tell him/them that payment is blocked and will not be made, unless he sends us an invoice with the requested data and a scan of his ID document. No more replies for a while, and we thought this was the end of the story. But, as we are really bad, we start shooting emails to the scammers asking why they can't provide the requested info/documents, since we are willing to pay and we need the info requested to do so.

On February 19, 2016 we received an email with a funny invitation:

"I invite you to a Skype meeting with me and my partner to resolve this issue. Kindly provide me with your Skype contact details, or you can add us as contacts via Skype through the details below.

1. ivanjorgei

2. nai3mat

Meeting date: 21/2/2016

Meeting time: 7 pm our local time GMT+3

kindly confirm the meeting date and time or suggest convenient alternative.

Ivan Jorge"

A **Skype meeting** ???! Pretty unusual. We already had a phone call from a scammer in the past, but being able to talk and see his/their face(s) is something we don't want to miss.

Will they show up for real or will they end up text-chatting only?

Bit of research, and we find from Skype that *ivanjorgei* is a **Palestinian account (location now removed)**. Also, the stated GMT+3 is either Israel Daylight Saving Time (and the scammer got it wrong, since they have now Standard Time GMT+2 there and the switch to Daylight Saving Time GMT+3 will occur only on March 25) or Iraq/Saudi Arabia/Yemen Standard Time. Adding *ivanjorgei* to Skype allowed us to see his profile, online status, and that he is on GMT+2.

We'll see what happens...

Also, the Skype account *nai3mat* belongs to a real EN>AR translator, Mrs. Naima Hani, living in Casablanca, with a Translation Directory profile at http://www.translationdirectory.com/translators/english_arabic/naima_hani.php. Is she a scammer's accomplice and affiliate to the scamming ring, or just an innocent translator lured into this scam to provide a legitimate/real name/VAT/bank account, or is she just a new ghost with a Translation Directory profile and Skype ID?

On Sunday, February 21, 2016, 7 PM GMT+2 they show up on Skype. And, yes, they start texting and **refuse to chat on video: *There is no video chat required as long as we can type.*** We insisted: ***As previously said, we prefer videochat.*** "Ivan" responds: with: ***Your preference is not an obligation to us. Kindly stick to typing. Please explain why videochat is not possible: Because it is not a preference to me.***

It's now clear that the person behind Skype account *nai3mat* is actually a full member of the scamming ring. We still don't know whether it's actually Naima Hani or someone impersonating this translator. Well then, we can wait for the invoice, VAT no. And ID card or Passport scan of this new scammer / ghost / impersonator.

On Sunday, February 21, 2016 we received an email from infolinkingbridge@gmail.com signed by "Naima Benhnia – Program Manager", with these files:

- Scan of the ID Card of Naima Benhnia. It looks like a real, unedited and unmodified scan of an ID card;
- Scan of the passport of Naima Benhnia. It looks like a real, unedited and unmodified scan of a passport;
- An invoice from Linking Bridge Group S.A.R.L. Here we can spot a good copy-paste job (this could even be acceptable, since we have several legitimate suppliers who copy-paste stuff on a template in order to produce invoices). In this email, a new email address is shown: marketinglinkingbridge@gmail.com

2. Investigation and considerations

2.1 Assuming that the ID Card and Passport scans are real, legitimate and unedited, we still can't say from the documents that Ms Naima Benhnia is actually an accomplice of Ivan Jorge and/or the person corresponding with us. She could be an innocent individual whose documents' scans have been used to impersonate her in this payment request. Sure Naima Hani/Naima Benhnia appears to be a real person and a translator, with profiles in

https://www.translatorsbase.com/view_resume.aspx?user_id=608556

<http://www.user29846.globtra.com/>
http://www.mytranslation.com/translators/profile/2781/Naima_BENHNIA
<http://www.translatorstown.com/profile/48863>
http://www.translationdirectory.com/translators/english_arabic/naima_hani.php
<http://www.translatorscafe.com/cafe/member162269.htm> .

Strange enough, no profiles in ProZ, but a Bad Payer/Scammer report on the name Naima Hania / Naima Benhnia / Nima Benhnia / in

<http://www.translationdirectory.com/forum/messages/?3681>

2.2 Linking Bridge Group website. The *linkingbridge.com* domain was created on 2008-10-24. At www.thelinkingbridge.com/ there is a nonsense website made up with a responsive template. Services clearly offered in the homepage are Translation, Communication, Transcription, with three sections/pages describing them.

The rest of the homepage is filled with nonsense text, like in the “Industries” section (repeated in the www.thelinkingbridge.com/industries page and the single industry subpages) where all you can read is a *lorem ipsum* variation. Other AutoCAD services have little to do with translation. The whole set of footer links and Social Networks links are in href="#" in all pages.

The Contact page www.thelinkingbridge.com/node/4 shows a phone number (00212 614408762 which is a Médi Telecom Moroccan mobile no.), an email address (contact@thelinkingbridge.com) and a form to fill for contacting the Company, but the map shown – **oh, look! – is of Altona Meadows: a suburb of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia**...No street address of the Company can be found in the whole website (!).

This is a website clearly made up just to show/pretend that there is a “company” somewhere doing something, and filled with some mumbo jumbo, some *lorem ipsum* copy, and stuff scraped here and there.

2.3 The invoice sent to us show:

- No date (??!!)
- An “Invoice 007” stated at the beginning, along with a “Ref. No. 0024”
- A blue stamp where we can see “*Import-Export Services – Biens & Sous-Treillance*” (Goods and Subcontracting? Wasn’t this a translation/communication company?) and address + landline phone number.
- Same address found in the footer (BD Yacoub EL Mansour, Rue Hai Jilali El Oufir RDC N 16 Quartier Maarif, 20000 Casablanca Anfa) and landline phone number (00212 522 976136), plus a mobile number (00212 664 727590)
- RC (Numéro de registre de commerce): 288205 (**VALID**)
- IF (Numéro d'Identification fiscale, the VAT no.): 1453265
- CNSS (Numéro de la caisse nationale des sécurités sociales): 9727126
- Payment info:
Bank : BMCE Bank
Swift code: BMCEMAMC
Company : LINKINGBRIDGE SARL
RIB: 011 780 00 00 29 210 00 00803 15
Bank Address: CAF ZENITH MILLENIUM Bis Sidi Maarouf Casablanca 20039. Maroc

A quick search shows that in *Rue Hai Jilali El Oufir RDC N 16 Quartier Maarif, 20000 Casablanca Anfa* there is (also) the main office of a *Fiduciaire Belfort*, selling business services among which there are also shelf companies.

This invoice coupled with the website structure and content are an evidence that Linkingbridge S.A.R.L. is a scammers ring's accomplice: not only an improbable website, not only an invoice for a scam job performed by a scamming ring, but Bank data with the company name used to receive the payment.

2.4 On Sunday, February 28, 2016 we sent an email with CC to both "Ivan Jorge" ivanjorgei33@gmail.com and Naima Benhnia infolinkingbridge@gmail.com where we informed them that our Accounting Department decided that the invoice is valid and verified with proof of identity, but here we still have an important problem:

We issued a PO to a Ivan Jorge, UK resident, who delivered the translation, BUT we have an invoice from a Moroccan company, Linking Bridge Group S.A.R.L. sent by a Naima Benhnia, asking payment to a Moroccan account!

Our accounting Dept. says that we can pay only if Mr. "Ivan Jorge" provides a declaration (it's OK a scanned copy with his signature) where he states that the Italian>English website translation our job code and PO IT114-15 has been performed by Ms. Naima Benhnia of Linking Bridge Group S.A.R.L. and ***"Ivan Jorge" accepts that payment for the job is performed to Linking Bridge Group S.A.R.L. This declaration must be accompanied by a scanned copy of ID Card or Passport of Mr. Ivan Jorge"***.

2.5 End of the story: They send us multiple emails threatening to *"inform all translation websites that you are scammers"* but don't even discuss our requests and don't send further documents.

3. Results of the Scambusting + Investigation

3.1 We had the scammers sweating to provide the "translation", discuss, find solutions and new ways to have their story accepted, open profiles, activate accounts... doing something unusual for them, which is, *working*.

3.2 We have three emails used by the scammer since August 2015: worldtranslator951@gmail.com , ivanjorgei33@gmail.com , and paoloregaa@gmail.com

3.3 We have a CV where we can see that he impersonates (blatantly copying CVs' info) Jean Martin, ProZ profile <http://www.ProZ.com/profile/59000>

3.4 We have one PayPal addresses used by the scammer to get paid: drpaoloregaa@gmail.com

3.5 We have a Skype account of the scammer/s: *ivanjorgei*

3.6 We have another Skype account of an affiliate to the scamming ring: *nai3mat*

3.7 We have three email addresses belonging to scammers' accomplices: contact@thelinkingbridge.com infolinkingbridge@gmail.com and marketinglinkingbridge@gmail.com

3.8 We have a scammers' accomplice website: www.thelinkingbridge.com

3.9 We have the scammers' accomplice Bank account:

Bank : BMCE Bank

Swift code: BMCEMAMC

Company : LINKINGBRIDGE SARL

RIB : 011 780 00 00 29 210 00 00803 15

Bank Address: CAF ZENITH MILLENIUM: Attaoufik, imm. Zenith Millenium , n° 2 bis, Sidi Maârouf 20270 Casablanca

4. Epilogue and Conclusion

Scammers are still waiting for "their" 20600 Euros.