

Spanish Lottery Scam September/October 2002

A scam involving unsolicited mail from overseas has resurfaced prompting me to issue a public warning.

The warning relates to letters that claim the recipient has won a cash prize in a "Spanish Lottery" sweepstakes, called El Gordo. Although El Gordo is an authentic Spanish lottery, these letters are part of a scam that operates out of Madrid and Barcelona.

The letter claims there has been a mix up in lottery numbers and the consumer is poised to receive a substantial cash prize from a security company.

Most people would probably just throw this type of letter in the garbage, but occasionally someone will think they have hit the jackpot. The reality is if they take it any further, they are setting themselves up to become a victim of a scam.

The letter advises the recipient that they must make their claim before a certain date and they should keep the information top secret until the claim is confirmed. They are then asked to telephone a claim agent, on an overseas telephone number, who will arrange to transfer the funds to an account of their choice. Once bank account and personal details have been provided, the scam operators then send a request for money.

Consumers should always be especially wary about lotteries or competitions they have not entered.

Examples of the letter are listed below:

- EL GORDO SWEEPSTAKE LOTTERY SL
TEL: 34-6-51381512 FAX: 34-6-51085204
FROM: THE DESK OF MANAGING DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION/PRIZE AWARD DEPT.
REF: EG/2551256003/01

ATTENTION: SIR/MADAM,

RE: AWARD NOTIFICATION/FINAL NOTICE

WE ARE PLEASED TO INFORM YOU OF THE RELEASE TODAY, THE 22ND NOVEMBER 2001 OF THE RESULTS EL GORDO SPANISH SWEEPSTAKE LOTTERY/ INTERNATIONAL PROMOTIONS PROGRAMS HELD ON THE 20TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2001.

YOUR NAME ATTACHED TO THE TICKET NUMBER 025-11464992-750 WITH SERIAL NUMBER 2113-05 DREW THE LUCKY NUMBERS 13-15-16-21-34-35 WHICH CONSEQUENTLY WON THE LOTTERY IN THE 3RD CATEGORY. YOU

HAVE THEREFORE BEEN APPROVED FOR A LUMP SUM PAY OF US\$315,810.00 (THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND TEN DOLLARS) IN CASH CREDITED TO FILE REF. NO: EGS/2551256003/01. THIS IS FROM A TOTAL CASH PRIZE OF US\$5,368770.00 (FIVE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY EIGHT THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY DOLLARS). SHARED AMONG THE SEVENTEEN INTERNATIONAL WINNERS IN THIS CATEGGORY.

CONGRATULATIONS. YOUR FUND IS NOW DEPOSITED WITH A SECURITY COMPANY INSURED TO YOUR NAME. DUE TO MIXED UP IN SOME NUMBERS AND NAMES, WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THIS AWARD TOP SECRET FROM PUBLIC NOTICE UNTIL YOUR CLAIM HAS BEEN PROCESSED AND YOUR MONEY REMITTED TO YOUR BANK ACCOUNT AS THIS IS PART OF OUR SECURITY PROTOCOL TO AVOID DOUBLE CLAIMING OR UNWARRANTED TAKING OF ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROGRAM BY PARTICIPANTS. ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE SELECTED THROUGH A COMPUTER BALLOT SYSTEM DRAWN FROM 25,000 NAMES FROM EUROPE, AMERICA AND ASIA AS PART OF OUR INTERNATIONAL PROMOTIONS PROGRAM WHICH WE CONDUCT ONCE EVERY YEAR. WE HOPE WITH A PART OF YOUR PRIZE, YOU WILL TAKE PART IN OUR END OF YEAR HIGH STAKE US\$1.3 BILLION INTERNATIONAL LOTTERY.

TO BEGIN YOUR CLAIM, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CLAIMS AGENT, DON JUAN LOPEZ FOREIGN SERVICE MANAGER OF SANTA CRUZ SEGURIDAD S. A, ON TEL: 34-6-54322363 FAX: 34-6-510-852-04 OR E-MAIL santacruzseguridad99@yahoo.com FOR PROCESSING AND REMITTANCE OF YOUR PRIZE MONEY TO A DESIGNATED ACCOUNT OF YOUR CHOICE. NOTE THAT ALL PRIZE MUST BE CLAIMED NOT LATER THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS OF THIS NOTIFICATION, AFTER 7 DAYS, ALL FUNDS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE MINISTERIO DE ECONOMIA Y. HACIENDA AS UNCLAIMED.

NOTE: IN ORDER TO AVOID UNNECESSARY DELAYS AND COMPLICATIONS; PLEASE REMEMBER TO QUOTE YOUR REFERENCE AND BATCH NUMBERS IN EVERY OF YOUR CORRESPONDENCE WITH US OR YOUR AGENT. FURTHERMORE, SHOULD THERE BE ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS, DO INFORM YOUR CLAIMS AGENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ENCLOSED WITH THIS LETTER IS A COPY OF YOUR PRIZE CLAIM AGENT CERTIFICATE.

CONGRALATIONS AGAIN FROM ALL MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF AND THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF OUR PROMOTION PROGRAM.

YOURS SINCERELY,

ANTONIO CARLOS
VICE PRESIDENT

- (Written on "letterhead". Misspellings included in this example. Interesting Note: They also put a "watermark" -looking stamp in the middle of the paper that stated "Beneficiary Copy" - maybe they felt this looked more impressive. . . Also of note, is a claim form that was included in with this letter. The form asked for name, date of birth, **bank account number, routing number**, etc. Do not **ever** give out personal information and sign a document stating that a complete stranger has the right to deposit/withdraw funds from your bank account! Bad! Bad! Bad!)

El-Gordo Intl. Lottery Comision
Calle San Bernado 2 5C 28009
Madrid Spain
Tel/Fax 0034-606856179

FROM: THE DIRECTOR
PRIZE AWARD DEPARTMENT
REF: NO EG/38807886091/02
BATCH: 340/1608/RDL.
DATE: 30TH JULY 03

REAWARD NOTIFICATION FINAL NOTICE

We are pleased to inform you of the release of the El Gordo de la primitiva Spanish sweepstaker lottery Int.promotion programs held on 12th Dec. 2002.

This name, attached to ticket number 033-1146993-750 with serial number 1223-05 drew the lucky numbers 02-06-20-24-29-32 consequently won the lottery in this category.

You are therefore, been approved for a lump sum payout of US\$615,810,00 (Six hundred and fifteen thousand, eight hundred and ten united states Dollars) in cash, credited to the file number EG/38807886091/02, this is from the total cash prize of \$50,368,770.00 Fifty million three hundred and sixty eight thousand, seven hundred and seventy United States Dollars, shared among the seventeen international winners in this category.

Your fund is now deposited with a security company insured in your name. Due to mixed up of some numbers and names, we ask that you keep this award top secrete from public notice until your claims has been processed and your money remitted to your account as this is part of our security protocol to avoid double claims or unwarranted taking advantage of this program by participants.

All participants were selected through a computer ballot system drawn from 25,000 names from all over the world as part of our international promotion programs which we conduct twice every year. We hope, with part of your prize, you will take part in our middle of the year high stake US\$1.3bn lottery.

To begin your claim, please contact your claim agent Sir Oscar Richi Sipe, the foreign service manager of TRANSTACT CARGO & SECURITY S.A. on Tel +34-600326119

for processing and remittance of your money to designated account of your choice. Remember, all prize money must be claimed not later than four weeks from the date of this notice, after this date all funds will be returned to the ministerio de economia y hacienda as unclaimed.

Note, in order to avoid unnecessary delay and complications, please quote your reference and batch number in every correspondence with us or your agent. Further more, should there be any change of address, please inform your claims agent as soon as possible. Attached is a processing form do fill in, and return via fax to Transtact Cargo & Security.A.A, YOUR CLAIM AGENT.

Be informed that your agent is entitled to 10% of your total winning as commission after you must have received your money in your account.

Congratulations, once again, from all members and staff and thank you for bein gpart of our promotions program.

Yours Sincerely,
MS. MARIE A. GARCIA