



Investigative Summary: Facebook Scam Investigation

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The U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO), Office of the Inspector General (OIG), completed an investigation into a fraudulent Facebook account bearing the name and image of GPO Director Hugh Halpern. The fraudulent page was reported to GPO OIG by a private citizen who had been contacted by the fraudulent account in an attempt to defraud the reporting individual. The OIG's investigation sought to determine the identity of the fraudulent account holder for possible criminal prosecution under Title 18 U.S.C. § 1028—fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents, authentication features, and information, and Title 18 U.S.C. § 912—Impersonating a Federal Employee.

The OIG's investigation identified the creator of the fraudulent Facebook account and substantiated that they violated Title 18 U.S.C. § 912. However, all information indicated that the account holder was located outside of the United States, limiting subsequent investigative efforts and criminal prosecution. Through coordination with other federal law enforcement agencies and Meta Platforms, Inc., Facebook's parent company, GPO OIG was able to orchestrate the removal of the fraudulent Facebook page from the social media platform.

GPO OIG notified GPO leadership of this investigation and its results.