THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney's Office
District of Oregon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 25, 2026
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Liberian National Extradited from Côte d'Ivoire to Face Charges in $707,000 Oregon Romance Fraud Scheme

PORTLAND, Ore. — A Liberian national accused of defrauding an Oregon victim of more than $707,000 through an online romance fraud scheme has been extradited from Côte d'Ivoire to the United States and will face federal wire fraud charges in the District of Oregon, U.S. Attorney Scott E. Bradford announced today.

David Hardy, 39, also known as David Nyangbor Hardy Jr., "Laski Bozej," and "Fabees," was indicted by a federal grand jury in the District of Oregon on Oct. 21, 2021, on three counts of wire fraud. Hardy was arrested by authorities in Côte d'Ivoire on June 17, 2026, pursuant to an INTERPOL Red Notice.

"Romance scams are particularly cruel because they exploit trust and emotional vulnerability for financial gain," said **U.S. Attorney Scott E. Bradford**. "The defendant allegedly targeted an Oregon victim with a web of lies and stole hundreds of thousands of dollars. We are grateful to our domestic and international law enforcement partners whose efforts ensured he was brought to the United States to face justice."

On Nov. 21, 2026, Ivorian authorities transferred Hardy to FBI custody in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Hardy was subsequently transported to the United States by FBI agents to face the charges pending against him in Oregon. Hardy's surrender marked the first extradition from Côte d'Ivoire to the United States.

According to court documents, between September and October 2020, Hardy used a fictitious online dating profile on the dating website Plenty of Fish to target an Oregon victim. Hardy allegedly posed as a 68-year-old Finnish citizen living in Bend, Oregon, and cultivated an online relationship with the victim while claiming he was traveling in Maryland and Mexico and therefore unable to meet in person.

Hardy allegedly told the victim that his grandson had been kidnapped by a Mexican drug cartel and that he needed money to secure the child's release. He also claimed to possess $6 million in gold bars but needed funds to cover fees required to ship and sell the gold. Hardy allegedly instructed the victim not to contact law enforcement, claiming the cartel would kill his grandson if authorities became involved.

Based on these alleged misrepresentations, the victim transferred more than $707,000 between Sept. 14 and Oct. 26, 2020. The indictment specifically charges wire transfers of $20,000 on Sept. 14, 2020, $100,000 on Sept. 28, 2020, and $150,000 on Sept. 29, 2020.

Court documents further allege that the victim's funds were sent to two bank accounts controlled by individuals who were themselves involved in online relationships with fraudsters and were unknowingly moving money on their behalf. Investigators believe the accounts were used to launder fraud proceeds and that the account holders served as unwitting money mules in the scheme.

If convicted, Hardy faces up to 20 years in federal prison on each count of wire fraud.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The successful location, arrest, and extradition of Hardy were made possible through the coordinated efforts of the Justice Department’s Office of International Affairs, the FBI, the U.S. Department of State’s Diplomatic Security Service, and personnel from U.S. Embassy Abidjan. The support and assistance of Ivorian authorities was essential to this effort, notably that of the Economic and Financial Criminal Division (Pôle Pénal Économique et Financier) of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights; the Directorate of Territorial Surveillance (Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire); and the Counter-Cybercrime Platform (Plateforme de Lutte Contre la Cybercriminalité) of the Ministry of Interior and Security.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam J. Nate for the District of Oregon is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is only an accusation of a crime, and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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