

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

Case No. _____

v.

THU PHAN DINH,
TRAN KHANH,
NGUYEN DUY TOAN,

all of whom are doing business as
“www.zerostore.site” and other domains
identified in Attachment A,

Defendants.

_____ /

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA’S COMPLAINT FOR
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND
PRELIMINARY AND PERMANENT INJUNCTIONS**

Plaintiff, the United States of America (“United States”), through its undersigned counsel, hereby sues Defendants THU PHAN DINH, TRAN KHANH, and NGUYEN DUY TOAN, all of whom are doing business as “www.zerostore.site” and other domains (“Defendants”) and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Defendants are engaging in a wire fraud scheme that defrauds consumers in the United States and exploits the current COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Defendants are using hundreds of websites, multiple PayPal accounts, and various email addresses to effectuate the scheme. The fraudulent websites operated by Defendants are listed in Attachment A.

3. Defendants create and operate websites that appear to be online retail stores offering products for sale, including health and safety products that are in high demand during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and hand soap.

4. To accept funds from the fraudulent website sales, Defendants create multiple email addresses tied to various names, then use these email addresses to open multiple PayPal accounts. Consumers who place orders for products on the websites submit payment via PayPal, and Defendants receive the payments for the orders. Defendants do not, however, send any of the purchased products.

5. In response to consumer complaints, Defendants provide consumers and PayPal false UPS and/or USPS tracking numbers purporting to show that products were actually delivered.

6. Defendants also falsify the contact information on their websites, including “customer service” phone numbers belonging to unaffiliated individuals and companies, causing these entities to receive disruptive complaint calls about the fraudulent websites.

7. After reaching a high volume of customer complaints and/or the attention of the web hosting company and/or law enforcement, Defendants will

close certain websites and move their online “stores” to other web domains they own to continue to profit from the scheme.

8. Defendants also rotate the PayPal accounts they use in order to avoid drawing PayPal’s attention by having high volumes of disputed charges and consumer complaints linked to a specific account.

9. Since at least December 2019, Defendants have opened multiple websites purporting to sell a variety of products, including toys, cosmetics, beauty supplies, and cooking tools. Defendants modified some of their websites in early 2020 to purportedly offer health and safety items that were scarce as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes.

10. The claims made on the Defendants’ websites are false, and are designed to induce victims to pay Defendants for non-existent products, and/or to obtain personal information from victims for purposes of engaging in fraudulent purchases and/or identity theft.

11. The United States of America (“the United States”) seeks to prevent continuing and substantial injury to the victims of this fraudulent scheme by bringing this action for a temporary restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunctions, and other equitable relief, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1345 in order to enjoin the ongoing commission of wire fraud in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1343 and conspiracy to commit wire fraud under 18 U.S.C. § 1349.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

12. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1345 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345.

13. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(3).

PARTIES

14. Plaintiff is the United States of America.

15. Defendants reside outside of the United States. Defendants have taken steps to conceal their identities and physical addresses.

16. In furtherance of their fraudulent scheme, Defendants have had extensive contacts with the United States. Defendants have created and maintained websites containing numerous false and misleading statements directed at potential victims throughout the United States. Defendants provide false business addresses on their websites, claiming to be located in the Middle District of Florida, and other locations in the United States. Defendants also provide false “customer service” phone numbers that actually belong to people and companies in the United States. Defendants’ victims are throughout the United States, including within the Middle District of Florida.

17. Defendant Thu Phan DINH has created PayPal accounts and received payments in connection with the fraudulent websites. DINH has also registered website domains used to carry out the scheme. DINH resides outside of the United States. Acting alone or in concert with others, he has formulated, directed, controlled, had the authority to control, or participated in the acts and practices set

forth in this Complaint doing business as “www.zerostore.site” and other domains as listed in Attachment A. DINH is subject to personal jurisdiction in this Court pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 4(k)(2) based on his aggregate contacts with the United States.

18. Defendant Tran KHANH has created PayPal accounts and received payments in connection with the fraudulent websites. KHANH has also registered website domains used to carry out the scheme. KHANH resides outside of the United States. Acting alone or in concert with others, he has formulated, directed, controlled, had the authority to control, or participated in the acts and practices set forth in this Complaint doing business as “www.zerostore.site” and other domains as listed in Attachment A. KHANH is subject to personal jurisdiction in this Court pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 4(k)(2) based on his aggregate contacts with the United States.

19. Defendant Nguyen Duy TOAN has created PayPal accounts and received payments in connection with the fraudulent websites. TOAN has also registered website domains used to carry out the scheme. TOAN resides outside of the United States. Acting alone or in concert with others, he has formulated, directed, controlled, had the authority to control, or participated in the acts and practices set forth in this Complaint doing business as “www.zerostore.site” and other domains as listed in Attachment A. TOAN is subject to personal jurisdiction in this Court pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 4(k)(2) based on his aggregate contacts with the United States.

DEFENDANTS' ONGOING FRAUDULENT SCHEME

20. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unusually high demand for certain health-related items and cleaning supplies, such as hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes, that are useful to help prevent the spread of the virus. This unusually high demand has caused shortages which have made these products difficult to find, both on the shelves of brick and mortar stores and on e-commerce websites.

21. Defendants' wire fraud scheme has targeted American consumers who are searching for health and safety items that have become scarce due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

22. In furtherance of their scheme, Defendants created websites fraudulently purporting to be online e-commerce stores. In December 2019, Defendants' websites were purporting to sell various consumer goods, including toys and gym equipment. Beginning around March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic began to intensify in the United States, Defendants modified many of their websites to purport to sell health and safety items that had become scarce in the U.S. market.

23. Each of Defendants' websites directs consumers to pay for the items they wish to purchase through PayPal. PayPal directs the consumer to pay the listed purchase price of the item(s) to the PayPal account that Defendants have associated with the website.

24. Once consumers make their payment, however, Defendants keep the consumers' money, but never send the products.

25. When victims file complaints with PayPal, Defendants provide fraudulent UPS tracking numbers to demonstrate that they supposedly shipped the victims' purchased items. In some instances, these UPS tracking numbers have caused PayPal to refuse to refund victims' money.

26. To carry out their scheme, the Defendants have registered hundreds of website domains with the registrar GoDaddy.com ("GoDaddy"). The Defendants re-use much of the structure and content of the websites, allowing them to open numerous websites with little additional time and effort. Defendants shut down some websites when they receive a high volume of complaints, shift their scheme to other website domains, then re-open the websites after some time has passed.

27. Defendants have also opened hundreds of PayPal accounts to accept payments from their fraudulent websites. To create the PayPal accounts, Defendants have opened hundreds of email accounts that they use to create an identity to register with the associated PayPal account. Many of these identities are either fake or stolen from real people.

28. Defendants have falsified their contact information on the websites, causing unrelated individuals and entities in the United States to receive complaints relating to Defendants' fraudulent conduct.

29. At least tens of thousands of victims, residing in all 50 states, have been defrauded by Defendants' scheme.

30. Defendants have collected personal and financial information for hundreds of individuals in the United States obtained via the fraudulent website sales.

31. Victims have suffered, and will continue to suffer, financial losses and identity theft from the fraudulent scheme engaged in and facilitated by Defendants.

32. Defendants' fraudulent scheme is ongoing. Absent injunctive relief by this Court, Defendants' conduct will continue to cause injury to victims.

COUNT I
(U.S.C. § 1345 – Injunctive Relief)

33. The United States re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 32 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

34. By reason of the conduct described herein, Defendants violated, are violating, and are about to violate 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343 and 1349 by executing schemes and artifices to defraud for obtaining money or property by means of false or fraudulent representations with the intent to defraud, and, in so doing, use wire communications.

35. Upon a showing that Defendants are committing or about to commit wire fraud, the United States is entitled, under 18 U.S.C. § 1345, to a temporary restraining order, a preliminary injunction, and a permanent injunction restraining all future fraudulent conduct and any other action that this Court deems just in order to prevent a continuing and substantial injury to the victims of fraud.

36. As a result of the foregoing, Defendants' conduct should be enjoined pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1345.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, United States of America, requests of the Court the following relief:

A. That the Court issue an order, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1345, pending a hearing and determination of the United States' application for a preliminary injunction, that Defendants, their agents, officers, and employees, and all other persons or entities in active concert or participation with them, are temporarily restrained from:

- (1) committing wire fraud,
- (2) maintaining and doing business through the use of the domain "zerostore.site" and the other domains listed in Attachment A,
- (3) using the domain "zerostore.site" and the other domains listed in Attachment A for any purpose,
- (4) using wire communications to make any false representations relating to the sale of consumer goods or to transmit any materials that contain false or misleading statements relating to the sale of consumer goods,
- (5) destroying business records related to Defendants' business, financial, or accounting operations, and
- (6) taking actions designed to interfere with any additional Court orders regarding these domains.

B. That the Court issue an order requiring the registries, CentralNic Registry and Verisign, Inc., and the registrar, GoDaddy Inc., for

“www.zerostore.site” and the domains listed in Attachment A to take the necessary steps to prevent further use of the websites in Defendants’ fraudulent scheme.

C. That the Court issue a preliminary injunction on the same basis and to the same effect.

D. That the Court issue a permanent injunction on the same basis and to the same effect.

E. That the Court order such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

Dated: August 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment A
to United States'
Complaint for
Temporary
Restraining Order and
Preliminary and
Permanent Injunctions

Internet Domains by Which Defendants are Doing Business

businessstore.xyz
guideshop.site
guideshop.online
fungoshop.site
shoeshop.club
shortsstore.xyz
babeshop.site
babestore.site
lalastore.site
vintastore.site
vinsunstore.site
sadostore.site
monstore.site
kangtastore.site
doffystore.site
camzystore.site
tikidstore.site
tadastore.site
zalistore.site
zerostore.site
kaylestore.site
jangstore.site
padastore.site
junzestore.site
kiddstore.site
sarastore.site
zindstore.site
lilastore.site
nizestore.site
saramstore.site
theplaystore.site
cocastore.site
seastore.site
ps3store.site
uzistore.site
dracostore.site
bambostore.site
tacastore.site
fackstore.site
bistore.site
kangstore.site
alidastore.site
atcstore.site

keelinstore.site
ulastore.site
neilstore.site
mushop.site
tutstore.site
mabelstore.site
sugarn.site
zeldastore.site
binkystore.site
bellestore.site
kiddostore.site
soulstore.site
hotstore.site
azustore.site
gemstore.site
nemostore.site
tomshop.site
bazone.site
avastore.site
delestore.site
celinatv.site
selinastore.site
utrastore.site
bellami.site
neala.site
winifreds.site
kaneweb.site
goldwin.site
thedoris.site
jocasta.site
elatifah.site
pandoratv.site
vincents.site
kiddu.site
zeldas.site
lucasta.site
takadas.site
zinzin.site
paizin.site
longka.site
itaewon.site
acaciatoy.s.site
zalata.site
adeletoys.site
viviantoy.s.site
rowantoy.s.site

songtow.site
kakalot.site
kangtewon.site
jangza.site
lovekids.site
boxtoys.site
giselletoys.site
siennatoys.site
amitytoys.site
kerenzatoys.site
beatrixstore.site
hildastore.site
edanatoys.site
sarahtoys.site
alicetoys.site
jessestore.site
helenstore.site
roxanatoys.site
stellatoys.site
latifahtoys.site
skybershop.com
shoestyleone.com
vallitomart.com
flacicostore.com
flamigostore.com
fugomart.com
papatimart.com
fugokids.com
kidstorepro.com
globalkidpro.com
tummykids.com
ardenkids.com
tonimart.site
hobokid.site
jonikid.site
kidstore.site
kidsplaza.site
habak.site
skyberstore.site
katastore.site
havadstore.site
paracostore.site
pacorato.site
ronnystore.site
rafastore.site
babiestore.site

pukastore.site
haviestore.site
campustore.site
cyberstore.site
fantasticstore.site
thebluestore.site
kansestore.site
kaiserstore.site
pinkstore.site
franciastore.site
ezoza.site
gilber.site
flyder.site
hyberstore.site
mjsxstore.site
jinos.site
zanus.site
geishies.site
zavara.site
tinokitty.site
kopakids.site
babyloves.site
kidstoyshop.site
vivinostore.site
lalastore.site
grandkids.site
bobie.site
tikidstore.site
padastore.site
junzestore.site
lilastore.site
faberstore.site
garadostore.site
zanta.site
ronnyshop.site
lolykids.site
grandopa.site
jannito.site
nanostore.site
brainmart.site
lionkingstore.site
zarisstore.site
donystore.site
donystar.site
mibstore.site
mygoodideas.site

frankstore.site
ronalstore.site
jinas.site
nanokids.site
bibokids.site
kristinamart.site
tinoplaza.site
miomart.site
greystore.site
galaxymart.site
mamostore.site
catinostore.site
ridkids.site
navastore.site
piomart.site
ciaostore.site
riverstore.site
dallastore.site
jinofarm.site
liaviastore.site
galaco.site
kajito.site
kappaus.site
habaktee.site
rozistore.site
grabielstore.site
rinostore.site
galadostore.site
nicolastore.site
kristinastore.site
vatinastore.site
rinostores.site
zalatastore.site
dragostore.site
greenzstore.site
hallmarkstore.site
linastore.site
nanokidz.site
uggone.site
kidseven.site
kidnice.site
kidfour.site
zeerabe.site
rotoskipper.site
piurared.site
millystore.s ite

gitasstore.site
braidfamily.site
sootgear.site
umamistore.site
cubestores.site
parisvice.site
victostore.site
luckysamuend.com
toygameshophouse.com
tomeshoponline.com
beautyshophouse.com
bestshoptopseller.com
hotdealshoes.com
hotdealshoe.com
myshoestoday.com
bestshoptophouse.com
gamehotfriday.com
tmacmart.com
hudduti.com
rainsocker.com
petmartsuka.com
pethotsuka.com
gooddytmart.com
shophotsocker.com
cookegoodmart.com
tmartproshop.com
jonygocker.com
buillingshop.com
ultamartshop.com
bootdytoys.com
vivamartjooday.com
rainsocker.site
kulistore.shop
shopforone.site
kulistoreshop.site
dadastore.site
clockforshop.site
lakeshopzakin.site
zinzinstore.site
kisdmartzonzon.site
sublivestoreshop.site
tomtomstoreshop.site
amamashop.site
shopforone.online
zinstoreforone.online
clockforshop.online

clockforshop.xyz
cuckustore.xyz
overliveshophouse.site
zinstorehucklay.site
daddyshopstore.site
storeriverstite.site
fugostoreacnet.site
ohmyshop.site
zinstoreforone.site
cuckustore.site
myliverever.site
mylivereversite.site
themanorcenter.site
parkviewstore.site
surishop.site
babihouseshop.site
tattooshop.site
bulerstore.site
jerrivershop.site
vendershop.site
killssuristore.site
pracudashop.site
ivectorshop.site
scubidustore.site
savilashop.site
kanlulushop.site
midustore.site
tabookshop.site
microlabshop.site
redbuk.site
julyashop.site
producttopshop.site
rokostore.site
stargonstore.site
megahock.site
sopheaashop.site
pdcookshop.site
packingshop.site
beolashop.site