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Peruvian National Sentenced in Transnational Government Imposter Scheme that Defrauded Thousands of U.S. Consumers

Carla Magaly Alcedo Mendoza (Alcedo), 45, of Lima, Peru, was sentenced today to eight years in prison and three years of supervised release for overseeing a years-long transnational fraud conspiracy that used government impersonation tactics to defraud thousands of consumers across the United States.

“The Justice Department is protecting U.S. consumers from fraudsters no matter where those fraudsters operate,” said Assistant Attorney General A. Tysen Duva of the Justice Department’s Criminal Division. “We will continue to work with our partners at home and abroad to ensure that those who impersonate U.S. government and court officials to steal from Americans are brought to justice.”

“These criminals preyed on hardworking Americans, using fear and intimidation to steal millions of dollars. They deliberately targeted Spanish-speaking communities, impersonating government officials and threatening innocent people with arrest and legal consequences,” said Acting U.S. Attorney Yara Lorenzo Klukas for the Southern District of Florida. “Today's sentence sends a clear message: no matter where you operate, if you target Americans, we will pursue you and bring you to justice.”

“Today’s sentencing of the fourteenth defendant charged in this investigation was made possible by the outstanding collaboration between Miami Division Postal Inspectors, the Justice Department, and our international partners,” said Inspector in Charge Bladismir Rojo of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) Miami Division. “Transnational criminal organizations who victimize our citizens are not beyond our reach.”

According to court documents, Alcedo was the operator of a Peruvian call center that defrauded and extorted U.S. residents by falsely threatening them with arrest, court proceedings, and immigration consequences. Alcedo admitted that she owned and operated a call center in Lima, Peru, that placed unsolicited calls to Spanish-speaking consumers in the United States and falsely claimed that they had won or qualified for free products, including computer tablets and English language

courses. On later calls, Alcedo and her co-conspirators falsely claimed that victims were contractually obligated to pay large sums of money to receive the products. Alcedo and her co-conspirators impersonated government officials and lawyers to intimidate victims and force them to pay. Alcedo and her co-conspirators also threatened victims with court proceedings, arrest, and other legal consequences if they did not pay. The scheme spanned several years and thousands of victims made payments to Alcedo. Collectively, the scheme was responsible for defrauding more than 30,000 Spanish-speaking residents of the United States out of $15 million.

Alcedo was extradited from Peru in April 2025 and pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud in August 2026.

Including today's sentencing in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, 14 defendants have now been convicted and sentenced in connection with this scheme. The 14 defendants include 10 Peruvian call center owner-operators and four distribution center owner-operators who processed payments, distributed products, and facilitated the fraud in the United States, and a telephone service provider who facilitated the fraud schemes across the call centers in Peru. Alcedo and many of the defendants shared strategies on how to defraud consumer victims across the United States.

Alcedo is the 10 th defendant charged in this scheme to be extradited from Peru and sentenced in federal court. In 2021 and 2022, Henrry Milla, Carlos Espinoza, Jerson Renteria, Fernan Huerta, Omar Cuzcano, Evelyng Milla, and Josmell Espinoza received sentences ranging from 88 months to 110 months in prison. In 2024, Jose Alejandro Zuñiga Cano was sentenced to 98 months in prison.

USPIS investigated the case.

Criminal Division Senior Trial Attorney and Transnational Criminal Litigation Coordinator Phil Toomajian prosecuted the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney Annika Miranda for the Southern District of Florida is handling asset forfeiture. The Justice Department's Office of International Affairs, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida, State Department's Diplomatic Security Service, U.S. Marshals Service, Peruvian National Prosecutor General's Office, and Peruvian National Police provided critical assistance with the case and extradition.

This case is part of efforts being undertaken by the Department of Justice Criminal Division's Cyber-Enabled Scam Initiative (CSI). The CSI is a dedicated team of prosecutors built to find scammers who prey on Americans, disrupt their networks, and hold them accountable. CSI brings together expert prosecutors from across the Criminal Division to accelerate the prosecution of cyber-enabled financial crimes, including complex frauds, government imposter schemes, romance and inheritance scams, financially motivated sextortion, lottery and sweepstakes scams, and other predatory schemes. With nationwide jurisdiction and global reach, CSI leverages every available tool to dismantle criminal operations, pursue bad actors, recover

criminal proceeds, and obtain justice for victims. The Criminal Division partners with U.S. Attorneys' Offices across the country and is a founding member of the Scam Center Strike Force.