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Jingliang Su (45) was sentenced to 46 months in federal prison after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy to operate an illegal money transmitting business.

Su, a Chinese native, has been in federal custody since December of 2024, and initially pled guilty in June of 2025.

The case saw over $36.9 million laundered from 174 U.S.-based victims. In return, U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner, who carried out the sentencing, ordered Su to pay $26,867,242 in restitution.

Su, along with eight confirmed co-conspirators who have pleaded guilty, operated a digital asset investment conspiracy through scam centers in Cambodia. So far, only two conspirators have been sentenced: Jose Somarriba, 36 months in federal prison and ShengSheng He, 51 months in federal prison.

The scheme targeted victims using unsolicited messages across different online platforms with victims saying they were contacted through telephone call, text messages and even online dating services.

Once the scammers established a level of trust with the victims, they would encourage them to invest in fraudulent digital asset opportunities through fake websites that mimicked legitimate cryptocurrency trading platforms.

As victims would send money through the fraudulent websites, the scammers would inform them that their investments were increasing in value.

In reality, their funds were being deposited into a single bank account held at Deltec Bank in the Bahamas.

From there, Su and the co-conspirators directed the bank to convert over $36.9 million into Tether (USDT) that could be transferred to a digital asset wallet that would be controlled in Cambodia.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has since stated that this case is only a larger effort to combat global scam center operations as scam operations continue to rise.

Since 2020, the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the DOJ has secured more than 180 cybercrime convictions, with courts ordering the return of over $350 million in victim funds.

The DOJ has highlighted the importance of international law enforcement cooperation as The Criminal Division relies on International Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (ICHIP) prosecutors who are stationed throughout the world.

If you or anyone you know have been victims of digital asset investment fraud, please report to IC3.gov.