


[_\(https://mercurysnotes.com/\)_](https://mercurysnotes.com/)



14 suspects arrested in Interpol and Afripol Joint Cyber Operation

 Daniel Iwugo(<https://mercurysnotes.com/author/elementmerc/>)

 August 18, 2023(<https://mercurysnotes.com/2023/08/18/>)

 Read Time: 1 mins



Abstract v4 | Credit: Mercury (<https://www.pexels.com/@mercury-el-598575147/>)

Interpol recently released a blog post (<https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2023/Cybercrime-14-arrests-thousands-of-illicit-cyber-networks-disrupted-in-Africa-operation>), indicating that a coordinated operation dubbed 'Africa Cyber Surge II', has led to the arrest of 14 suspected cybercriminals, and identification of over 20,000 cyber networks linked to over \$40 million dollars in losses.

The operation was launched in April 2023 and spanned 4 months. with the primary aim of 'identifying cybercriminals and compromised infrastructure'. It also worked towards enhancing communication, analysis and intelligence sharing among countries involved to better combat cyber extortion, phishing, email compromise, and online scams.

The operation was a follow up to the Africa Cyber Surge (<https://www.interpol.int/News-and-Events/News/2022/Operation-across-Africa-identifies-cyber-criminals-and-at-risk-online-infrastructure>) operation back in July 2022. The results of that operation included the arrest of 10 suspects linked to scams of up to \$800,000 (~~N~~614 million) in damages, and the deconstruction of over 200,000 pieces of malicious infrastructure.

During this operation, Interpol (<https://www.interpol.int/en>), Afripol (<https://afripol.africa-union.org>), Group-IB (<https://www.group-ib.com/media-center/press-releases/africa-cyber-surge-ii/>), and Uppsala Security (<https://uppsalasecurity.com>) collaborated by exchanging intelligence, offering operational support through shared information. Nigeria, Cameroon, Mauritius, Gambia, and Kenya also played vital roles in arrests and takedowns.

Nigeria and Cameroon made arrests related to fraud and online scams. Mauritius made arrests in relation to money mules, a situation where criminals use unsuspecting individuals to move illegally obtained funds. Gambia and Kenya took down malicious IP addresses and systems hosting malware respectively.

Here are some highlights from the recently completed operation:

- \$40 million (~~N~~30 billion) in financial losses
- 20,674 suspicious networks identified
- 150 cyber activity reports disseminated
- 25 participating countries
- 5 private sector partners

The success of the operation goes to show that international cooperation and intelligence sharing can have great impacts on the cyber landscape in Africa.

(<https://mercurysnotes.com>)
© 2023 All Rights Reserved.