

The Athens affair was an incident where a phone service provider, Vodafone-Panafon, was hacked. This allowed the hackers listen or record all calls on the network. The uniqueness of the hack was not due to the size or magnitude of impact; it was due to the skill, anonymity, and many theories that it caused. Although the incident occurred years ago. No evidence has been found about who was responsible or what the information was used for. This is mostly due to a mistake from their parent company based in the United Kingdom. There are multiple types of leadership: personal, organizational, and global. This massive leak of confidential information could have been prevented if better leadership had been found in any or all three of these aspects.

One of the main suspects or witnesses to part of the hack was an electrical engineer from Greece who committed suicide just days before the leak had been discovered. Many people think that he either realized that he was about to be found out or he found the leak and did not want to deal with the repercussions. Others believe that maybe he did not commit suicide at all, but was killed and then placed to look as if he took his own life. Any of these explanations show poor personal leadership in this engineer's life. If he was part of the hack, he had poor character and could have risked others' lives and privacies for his own personal gain. If he found the leak and didn't want to be held accountable, he caused a lot of possible pain for his weakness. He could have possibly given good information about the leak before-hand and helped find the culprits and stop them from using all of the information that was taken. If he was murdered and made to look like a suicide, he probably had information about the leak that the organization in charge of the leak were worried could lead to their discovery. If this was the case he had the information but had not disclosed it, possibly because he was afraid of what would happen to him. He could have helped authorities find who was responsible or, what they were looking for in all of these situations, but because he did not show good personal leadership he was unable to benefit them.

Vodafone did not show very good organizational leadership. They made several mistakes that cost them a lot of money and they lost a lot their reputation with their customers. They could have prevented this if their engineering management was in better communication with those that worked for them. If there was an inside job that the hackers used to initiate the hack maybe a manager could

have been made aware before damage had been done. Vodafone immediately announced that they had a breach in their system but they took so long to release log files and look deeper into the leak that those that were responsible for it had time to completely erase all traces of their existence. This was a huge organizational leadership mistake that may not have been able to prevent it happening but could have brought the culprits to justice.

If those responsible could have had a better global leadership perspective this may not have happened in the first place. Many of the people that were directly affected were government officials from many countries who essentially had all of their phones bugged. This is a huge security breach that could affect the entire world. Even though we are still unsure of the results of the breach. Information that was taken from this leak could have lasting effects for years to come.

If many of the people that were involved in this scandal had better leadership skills and perspectives, this breach of valuable information could have either been completely avoided or the impact could have lessened if those responsible could have been apprehended by information that could have been retrieved had people reacted the way they should have. Personal, organizational, and global leadership skills can have a lasting effect on many people. As engineers, we need to be informed about these abilities and develop them the best we can.