



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**"HIT-MAN" E-MAIL COMPLAINTS ON THE RISE**

**Richmond, VA** Over the past few weeks, the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has received nearly 200 complaints from people claiming they were being targeted on-line for assassination. In each instance, the purported 'hit-man' offers to leave the intended victim alone if he or she agrees to pay him tens of thousands of dollars.

While these e-mails vary in style and content and usually contain misspellings and broken English, the underlying message remains the same: pay the hired assassin or risk the consequences.

While there have been no recent reports of monetary loss or of any threats being carried out, these types of extortion scams can be intimidating. Your best defense is to delete any unsolicited spam e-mail without opening it. A reply indicates the sender has reached a 'live' account. It can also serve to escalate the intimidation.

**About NW3C**

Funded for over 30 years by the Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the National White Collar Crime Center is a leader in helping law enforcement combat economic and cybercrime. For more information, please visit our web site: [www.nw3c.org](http://www.nw3c.org)