

Someone stole my identity online and my life got worse than hell.

Some years ago, I got my debit card and my passport robbed online without noticing. I'll explain, 4 years ago, I was investing some money in cryptocurrency, and I was asked for my identity and my card information as well as my identification. It all turned out to be a scam. The scheme was so well done that I only noticed that I was scammed when I received an expense of 1000000€ in computer components. I reported it to my bank, but they said I needed to prove that it wasn't me. I couldn't prove that it wasn't me by the simple fact that I didn't know who it was. The first big consequence was that I was with a 1000000€ in debt and I had to pay it in a month. So, what did I do? First, I had to get the money, as fast as I could, I was a bit lucky because I was starting a project and if it went well, I would be a millionaire. In the first week, the project didn't go that well, but with time it was getting better and better, at the third week I had already paid three quarters of the debt. The debt was not the biggest problem, the time passed, and there were even more expenses.

One day I received a letter from the court saying that if I missed a payment, I would get arrested. I went to court, and I was being judged by robbing a bank, a thing that I haven't done. When I went to the court it looked like a book that I read a few years ago ("The Process" by Franz Kafka) because nothing made sense. They were accusing me based on an ID that was stolen from me but the photo in the ID wasn't mine. It was a big mess in the court but in the end, they dropped all the charges against me because they couldn't say that it was me the one who robbed the bank. But despite being able to prove my innocence it was a very traumatic experience for me.

I love to travel but in one of my latest travels I had another problem related with identity theft. I was entering Istanbul (Turkey) and when I showed my passport an immigration official told me to go with him to a private room. They told me that my name was in a list of people that were not allowed to enter in Turkey. I wasn't understanding anything because I've never been in Turkey before, and I never had ties with anything related to Turkey (eating Kebab and Lokum doesn't count). I dug a little further and it seems that someone had a passport with the same name as me and with the same number as me but with a different photo. It seems that that person had committed some crimes in Turkey and entered in the country's blacklist. I contacted my lawyer in Portugal and he was able to prove that my passport was cloned, and they accepted my lawyer's explanation and let me enter in the country.

When I was enjoying Istanbul, I felt inspired by the city's beauty and decided that this situation could not continue. So, when I got back to Lisbon, I made a complaint in the Polícia Judiciária's office. But my ordeal still didn't come to an end because a few months after I had another problem. I was working at home when I've received a registered letter. It was from Banco de Portugal, and I went to a Post Office to get the letter. When I started reading it, I was very nervous, because it said that I was forbidden to sign checks. By portuguese law that only can happen if I sign a no provision check, but I never signed a check in my life.

So, the nightmare had returned! I contacted the bank where I had an account and Banco de Portugal. It seemed that the no provision check that I signed it was from a bank where I didn't have any account. But when I contacted the bank who had make the complain I realised that was someone with my name and with my id number but with a different photo and with a different signature. So, with the help of my lawyer I managed to show to Banco de Portugal that I didn't sign this check. At this time my project was going very well, and I invested some of my returns on a permanent lawyer. I couldn't understand how this could happen, but it was happening, and the nightmare seemed never ending.

The Police continued to investigate but it seemed that they never discovered who was doing this to me and I was very upset with it.

After all this, a new episode happened. I've received (another) letter saying that I had gone through a toll without paying it. I was amazed because I didn't have a car of my own. Once again, my lawyer entered in action, and he was able to prove (once again) that someone was stealing my identity.

At this time, it was clear to the Police that someone was able to steal my identity and they decided to make a trap to the person who stole my identity. With the toll's company data, they were able to find which car the guy was driving and with all the evidence that they had regarding the theft they got a warrant from the judge. They put his car on the blacklist and one day the police ordered his car to stop, the guy showed his id and with the car and with the id they were able to use the warrant and arrested him.

When he was in the jail, the guy started to say that he was innocent but after the evidence were showed to him, he confessed all the scheme: he was able to get all my personal data in a bitcoin's transaction and with a friend he was able to clone all my documents. Then he started to use my documents and my problems began!

In the end let me give you some advice in order to avoid identity theft:

- Never click on a link if you are not sure it came from a trust site.
- Never put your personal data on websites you don't trust.
- Always have a multiple lawyer authentication whenever you use online documents.

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