

## **Extortion Fraudsters operating in Europe**

It has come to the notice of this Embassy that fraudsters, purported to be acting as Embassy officials, are targeting and duping Indian nationals in countries in Europe. The modus operandi used is to call Indian nationals using spoofed Embassy telephone numbers, to extort money from their victims. The standard message used (with minor variations) is to convey that the host Government has decided to deport/ arrest/ initiate legal proceedings against the victim for having given 'false information' pertaining to his/her immigration. They usually have full details of the victim (passport number, place of work etc) to convince them of their 'authenticity'. The fraudster then offers to help by urging the victim to transfer money to the Bank account of a lawyer which the Embassy has hired to take immediate preemptive action on their behalf.

All Indian nationals residing Romania, Albania and Moldova are hereby informed that no officer of the Embassy of India in Bucharest has been authorized to approach any Indian national requesting them to make any payments on the above pretext or for any other reason.

**If any Indian national is approached through a phone call as outlined above, they are advised to contact the Embassy in Bucharest immediately to report the incident and in no case should they fall for the prank and part with money. Also, kindly submit to the Embassy duly filled-in below form:**

**Format for Information on Spoofed Calls**

Sl No	Name with passport details of complainant	Current Country of work	Call received from number and date on which received	Call received on number	Money transfer details		Name of final recipient of money as provided by Bank / Western Union	Place (country / district) where money was finally withdrawn/ collected	Any other remarks
					Sender	Recipient			
					Give details of Bank Account or Western Union (account number, transaction ID) Branch, Location from which fund was transferred and Date of transaction in this column	Give details of Bank Account or Western Union (account number, transaction ID) Branch, Location in which fund was transferred and Date of transaction in this column			