

## **African Gold Dust Scam**

The African Gold dust scam and African Rough Diamonds Scam has duped hundreds of people world-wide. Not only do ignorant poor people lose their life savings in the hopes of seeing a profitable deal, but also many businessmen have turned bankrupt and lost their wealth.

The scammers are commonly from the West African nations of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Cameroon, Mali and Burkina Fasso, to list a few. The scammers always use telephone numbers or mobile numbers that are not traceable. Victims usually come across such scammers through unsolicited emails and text messages. The scammers declare that they are in possession of Gold dust/ Gold Dory Bars / Rough Diamonds / or other precious metals or stones that will be sold at almost 50% to 70% less than the market price and in that way, the buyer has an opportunity to sell it with good profits.

The scammers provide all the certifications, licenses, insurances papers, Kimberley Process Certificates, and invoices to the sellers which are all fake and nothing more than a Photoshop creation of these documents. The seller will always use various telephone numbers throughout the communications with their victims. The scammers will sometimes make phone calls to the alleged sellers to convince the buyer that the seller in Africa is a real person. The seller will ask for maximum information from the buyer, like bank account numbers, address, telephone numbers, passport copies etc. However, the seller will never provide the buyer with such information and even if provided it will be a fake.

There is always an initial amount that the buyer will have to pay for some registration, tax, paperwork etc., which could be as little as \$200 to a huge amount. This money will never be returned to the buyer and the buyer will never see the gold or rough diamonds.

On some occasions, the seller will invite the buyer to Guinea, Ghana, Mali or any other African country to conclude the deal. There have been incidents when the buyer travels to Africa and finds him/herself being kidnapped by these scammers. The next step from these scammers would be to hold the victim hostage and ask for ransom from the hostage's family members. Some victims do end up getting back to their home country, but a few are found dead.