

WANTED BY THE FBI

CARLOS ENRIQUE PEREZ-MELARA



Aliases: Carlos E. Perez Melara, Carlos E. Perezmelara

DESCRIPTION

Date(s) of Birth Used: April 19, 1980

Place of Birth: El Salvador

Height: 5'9"

Weight: 140 pounds

NCIC: W617874182

Hair: Black

Eyes: Blue

Sex: Male

Race: White (Hispanic)

Nationality: El Salvadoran

Remarks: Perez-Melara was in the United States on a travel visa and then obtained a student visa while he was taking college courses. He has ties to San Diego, California, and his last known location is San Salvador, El Salvador.

DETAILS

Carlos Enrique Perez-Melara is wanted for his alleged involvement in manufacturing spyware which was used to intercept the private communications of hundreds, if not thousands, of victims. As part of the scheme, Perez-Melara ran a website offering customers a way to "catch a cheating lover" by sending spyware masqueraded as an electronic greeting card. Victims who opened the greeting card would unwittingly install a program onto their computers. The program collected keystrokes and other incoming and outgoing electronic communications on the victims' computers. The program would periodically send e-mail messages back to the purchasers of the service containing the acquired communications, including the victims' passwords, lists of visited websites, intercepted e-mail messages, and keystroke logs. The program in question was initially called "Email PI" and renamed "Lover Spy" in July/August 2003. Perez-Melara allegedly hosted the website, as well as created the computer program. He ran the operation from his San Diego residence in 2003.

An arrest warrant was issued for Perez-Melara in the Southern District of California on July 21, 2005, after he was charged with the following crimes: manufacturing a surreptitious interception device; sending a surreptitious interception device; advertising a surreptitious interception device; unlawfully intercepting electronic communications; disclosing unlawfully intercepted electronic communications; unauthorized access to protected computer for financial gain; and aiding and abetting.

REWARD

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest of Carlos Enrique Perez-Melara.

If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.