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## **PHONEY “ITALIAN CONTRACT KILLER” SENDS E-MAIL THREAT**

BISMARCK – For the second time this year, an e-mail from an alleged contract killer is circulating around the state. This time the e-mail supposedly comes from “William Yahman Chichi” an “Italian assassin” who claims to have been paid \$45,000 to kill the recipient. The e-mail warns that an advance spy team is already monitoring the recipient’s movements until the “execution team” arrives in the country. The e-mail contains an additional threat that if the recipient reports the alleged hit to the police, the contract killers will kill the entire family.

“This is a reprehensible scam,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “It is clearly designed to scare the recipient into responding to the e-mail.”

Stenehjem cautioned consumers against responding to the e-mail. While this latest e-mail contains more details about the alleged contract killers than the earlier version, the purpose is the same – to con the unsuspecting and scared victim into sending money to the scam artist.

“Almost certainly, the scam artist will claim to need certain personal information about the citizen before confirming the so-called hit is a mistake and can be called off. Providing this information will put the consumer at risk for identity theft; at worst, the consumer could be subject to blackmail and identity theft,” said Stenehjem.

Additional information regarding common scams is available from the Consumer Protection link of the Attorney General’s website, at [www.ag.nd.gov](http://www.ag.nd.gov).

Any citizen who receives an e-mail that contains what is believed to be a credible threat should immediately report it to the local law enforcement agency.

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