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Karachi Court Told Armaghan Led Transnational Cybercrime Syndicate

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On July 20, 2025, a Karachi court was informed that Armaghan Qureshi masterminded a sophisticated transnational cybercrime network, engaging in financial fraud, data theft, and cryptocurrency laundering. The National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA) revealed details of his illicit operations, linking him to the murder of Mustafa Amir and exposing a web of criminal activity that demands urgent action to protect Pakistan's digital security.

The NCCIA's Investigating Officer (IO), Ameer Ali Khoso, submitted an interim charge sheet before a judicial magistrate (South), detailing Armaghan's elaborate schemes. Operating fraudulent call centers in Karachi's Defence Housing Authority (DHA), Armaghan allegedly used Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Virtual Private Network (VPN) software to impersonate US officials, defrauding victims through phishing and identity theft. "All gateways were linked to US-based LLC accounts under Armaghan's name and his father's associates," Khoso reported, noting proceeds were converted to cryptocurrency via platforms like Binance and Coinbase (DAWN, July 20, 2025). The suspect planned to expand operations to Lahore and Islamabad, renting properties for new call centers after Amir's murder on January 6, 2025.

Armaghan's network, which generated \$300,000 to \$500,000 monthly, involved unauthorized fund transfers and dark web transactions, with evidence found on seized devices, including access to United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) portals (The News, July 20, 2025). His alleged involvement in Amir's murder—where the victim's body was torched in Balochistan—further darkens the case. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has since filed money laundering charges, seizing eight luxury vehicles bought with illicit funds (Express Tribune, March 24, 2025).

The case exposes vulnerabilities in Pakistan's cybersecurity framework, with criminals exploiting technology to evade justice. Armaghan's father, Kamran Qureshi, also faces drug trafficking charges, suggesting a family-linked crime network (DAWN, March 24, 2025). As investigations deepen, authorities must act decisively to dismantle such syndicates, ensuring robust measures to safeguard citizens from the growing threat of cybercrime and organized fraud.