

Refusing Foreign Call Centers, Forced Foreign Culture and Language Assimilation

“I no longer pick up the phone if the voice is not a familiar American voice.”

Total amount Americans have lost to foreign-based scam call centers since those operations began targeting Americans, there is no reliable official cumulative total. The government does not maintain a historical ledger that separates foreign call-center fraud from domestic fraud.

However, we can establish a minimum documented amount and a reasonable scale.

What we can actually document

Foreign call-center operations targeting Americans have been operating for **well over a decade**. For example, the DOJ prosecuted an **India-based** operation that defrauded Americans from 2013–2016; the principal operator admitted to a foreseeable loss of more than \$25 million and less than \$65 million, and was ordered to pay about \$8.97 million in restitution to identified victims.

Another India-based operation sent tens of millions of scam calls into the United States between 2015 and 2020, producing more than \$20 million in reported victim losses.

In 2026, the FBI announced that three India-based call centers had targeted Americans since 2022. About 660 U.S. victims reported \$48.8 million in losses from those operations alone.

And those are only individual cases that investigators were able to identify and prosecute.

The larger picture is much bigger

The FCC recently cited an estimate that foreign-originated scam calls alone cost Americans nearly \$30 billion in 2021. Only about \$700 million of that was documented through FTC complaints that year, illustrating the enormous underreporting problem.

The FTC similarly reported that in 2024 Americans lost approximately \$1.9 billion through traditional contact methods—calls, texts and emails—and that phone interactions produced the highest median loss per victim.

There is another important distinction: foreign call centers are only one component of foreign-based fraud. **Southeast Asian** scam-center networks, for example, were estimated by the U.S. government to have stolen at least \$10 billion from Americans in 2024 alone.

So what could the historical total be?

Based on the documented cases, the FCC's estimate of foreign-originated call losses, the massive underreporting of fraud, and the expansion of international scam centers, it is reasonable to say:

Americans have likely lost tens of billions of dollars to foreign-based telephone and call-center scams over the past decade or more, with the true cumulative amount potentially reaching into the **hundreds of billions when underreported losses and other foreign-operated fraud are included.**

MOVING FORWARD, SUPPORT: **ALL AMERICAN CALL CENTERS.**