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NEWS



Springfield Man Convicted Of Posing As Teen Girl To Get Boys To Produce Child Pornography

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2012

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Faisal Hashime, 20, of Springfield, Va., was convicted yesterday after a bench trial of posing online as an attractive teen girl to entice minor boys to take and send him sexually explicit images, several of which he sent to others online.

Neil H. MacBride, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and John P. Torres, Special Agent in Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Washington, D.C., made the announcement after a trial before United States District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema.

Hashime was convicted of three counts of production of child pornography, which each carry a mandatory minimum of 15 and a maximum of 30 years in prison, and two counts of distribution of child pornography, which each carry a mandatory minimum of five years and a maximum of 20 years in prison. On Sept. 12, 2012, Hashime pled guilty possessing and receiving child pornography, the latter of which carries a five-year mandatory minimum penalty. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 7, 2012.

According to court documents and evidence at the trial, the investigation into Hashime began after he distributed images of child pornography to an undercover agent via e-mail. After executing a search warrant on Hashime's e-mail account, law enforcement recovered numerous e-mails where Hashime pretended to be an attractive young female named "Tracy" while communicating with minor boys throughout the country he met on the internet. While acting as "Tracy," Hashime flirted, developed intimate friendships, engaged in explicit online conversation with them, and – often over the course of months – requested, cajoled, seduced, guilted, and encouraged them to take and send pictures of their naked bodies and genitalia. After obtaining several images of boys' genitalia, Hashime then distributed several of the images to others online.

When law enforcement executed a search warrant on Hashime's residence, he admitted to being "Tracy" online.

The investigation was conducted by ICE HSI in Washington, D.C. Assistant United States Attorney Alexander T.H. Nguyen and Special Assistant United States Attorney Maureen C. Cain are prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.justice.gov/usao/vae>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov> or on <https://pcl.uscourts.gov>.

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