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FRESNO MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS AND ONE MONTH IN PRISON FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that JUSTIN BARCELLOS, 29, of Fresno, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Lawrence J. O’Neill to 10 years and one month in prison for his conviction of one count of receipt of child pornography. The prison term will be followed by a lifetime term of supervised release during which his access to minors, computers, and the Internet will be restricted. The judge also ordered BARCELLOS to make a payment of \$2,000 to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

This case is the product of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement through its Cyber Crimes Center and Fresno office. The prosecution was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), 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), PSC 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 PSC, please visit www.projectsafefchildhood.gov.

“This sentence is a stern reminder about the consequences awaiting those who sexually exploit the most vulnerable members of our society, our children,” said Brian Poulsen, Resident Special Agent-in-charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Office of Investigations in Fresno. “We must never forget that child pornography involves images and scenes of real children who are being sexually abused and exploited in horrific ways. ICE will continue to work closely with its local law enforcement partners to target those who commit these types of crimes and see they are brought to justice.”

According to Assistant United States Attorneys David Gappa and Sheila Oberto, who prosecuted the case, BARCELLOS was arrested on September 6, 2007 after a search warrant was executed at his residence. He had been identified as a subscriber to a Web site known to distribute child pornography. When his residence was searched, agents found numerous journals that contained writings and drawings by BARCELLOS detailing his fantasies about sexually abusing children. He also described fantasies in which adult women were subjected to violence, and he mutilated many images of women obtained from magazines and other sources. He admitted that he had spent at least \$3,000 over the course of approximately five years to purchase child pornography, and his collection included at least 1344 still and 102 video images. Several videos were very lengthy, and one exceeded one hour in length. A significant percentage of the material depicted violence, sadistic or masochistic conduct, and vulnerable victims being sexually abused by adult males.

BARCELLOS pleaded guilty on March 21, 2008 and has been detained as a flight risk

and danger to the community since his initial appearance in federal court on September 6, 2007.

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