



Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown
Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 4, 2009

www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae

Docket #: 1:08-cr-378 AWI

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PORTERVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that VICTOR ISRAEL MARTINEZ, 30, of Porterville, Calif., pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to one count of sexual exploitation of a minor by production of images of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. He agreed to a prison term of at least 210 months and a lifetime term of supervised release during which his access to minors, computers, and the Internet will be restricted.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Fresno Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, specifically the Lindsay and Porterville Police Departments, the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It is a 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, PSC marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information, visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov or call the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

"This case is significant because the defendant admitted actually producing child pornography, which, under the plea agreement, means he's facing a sentence of more than 17 years in prison," said Brian Poulsen, resident agent in charge for the ICE Office of Investigations in Fresno. "That penalty ensures this defendant will be unable to victimize additional children for a long, long time. We owe it to the young victims in these cases to pursue the offenders aggressively, since many of the children who are sexually exploited by those who produce child pornography will bear the emotional scars of the trauma for rest of their lives."

According to Assistant United States Attorney David Gappa, who is prosecuting the case, MARTINEZ admitted that on September 8, 2007, in Tulare County he knowingly used or coerced a minor female to engage in sexually explicit conduct for purposes of producing at least one visual depiction of the conduct. MARTINEZ took digital still images of the minor female, transferred them to a computer, then uploaded them to a Yahoo! account and transferred the images to a second Yahoo! account. MARTINEZ agreed to accept sentencing enhancements because his offense involved sexual contact with the minor victim, the victim was under 12 years of age, and he distributed images of the minor.

MARTINEZ has been detained as a flight risk and a danger to the community since his initial appearance in federal court on January 30, 2009. The sentencing is scheduled for July 13, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. He faces a maximum of 30 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and a lifetime term of supervised release.

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