

NEWS

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Maryland Man Sentenced to 65 Months for
Engaging in Sex Tourism Business

(More)

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NEWARK – The former owner of a website called “LadyParadise.com” was sentenced today to 65 months in federal prison for engaging in sex tourism, for facilitating the travel of at least one other individual knowing that the purpose of the travel was to engage in sexual activity with underage girls, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Jose L. Linares also fined Daniel Cuneo \$3,000 and ordered him to serve seven years of supervised release upon completion of his prison sentence.

Daniel Cuneo, 38, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, pleaded guilty on Nov. 20, 2006, admitting that he provided services to a potential customer, including offering to serve as that customer’s personal tour guide, in arranging a trip to the Philippines. Cuneo was arrested at a hotel nearby Newark Liberty International Airport on July 19, 2005, during the course of his travel from Gaithersburg to the Philippines.

The customer with whom Cuneo interacted was actually an undercover agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Cuneo was meeting that person at the time of his arrest.

Cuneo was in custody since his arrest and was released on bail in November 2006. Judge Linares today ordered Cuneo to surrender to the federal Bureau of Prisons by Dec. 3.

At his plea hearing, Cuneo further admitted that he was aware that this customer wished to travel to the Philippines for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity with underage girls. Cuneo admitted that, during the duration of his relationship with this customer, he corresponded via e-mail, telephone and discussed during face-to-face meetings different arrangements for the trip, including hotel accommodations, transportation once in the Philippines, and the rental of a yacht. Cuneo also admitted to providing advice for locating underage girls in the Philippines that could be hired for sexual purposes. Cuneo admitted that he was to be paid for his services.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins, with the investigation of Cuneo.

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Defense Counsel:
Ramon W. Pagan, Esq.