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PRESS RELEASE

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ELEPHANT BUTTE MAN CHARGED WITH SOLICITING AND RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

On November 30, 2010, **Henio M. Hinojos**, 51, a resident of Elephant Butte, New Mexico, was arraigned on federal child pornography charges in United States District Court in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Hinojos is charged with soliciting materials depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct and knowingly receiving and possessing visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

The ten-count indictment alleges that in April 2010, Hinojos solicited materials through the mail that purported to contain visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment also alleges that between July 2009 and November 2009, Hinojos received via the internet photographs and videos of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. According to the indictment, on September 22, 2010, Hinojos

possessed a computer and a flash drive that contained visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

Hinojos was arrested on a criminal complaint on May 26, 2010, and was released on a \$10,000 secured bond on May 28, 2010. The complaint alleged that in April 2010, Hinojos, in response to a letter sent by undercover U.S. Postal Service investigators, requested catalogs containing “pedophilia,” “pre-teen girls,” and “young teen girl.” The complaint further alleges that an undercover officer mailed Hinojos a catalogue describing the collection of videos available, and Hinojos filled out a mail order form indicating which videos he wanted to purchase and sent the order form along with a money order to the undercover officer. According to the complaint, on May 25, 2010, Hinojos picked up the package he ordered at the Post Office in Elephant Butte, New Mexico.

If convicted of soliciting or receiving child pornography, Hinojos faces a term of imprisonment that ranges from a minimum of 5 years to a maximum of life, as well as up to a lifetime of supervised release. If convicted of possessing child pornography, Hinojos could receive up to ten years of imprisonment.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the charges against Hinojos stem from an investigation led by Immigration & Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations and the United States Postal Service, with assistance from the United States Marshal’s Service and the Las Cruces Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Stephen Wong, Assistant United States Attorney, as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 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.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The case also was brought as part of the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force's (ICAC Task Force) mission to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers in New Mexico. There are 61 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the ICAC Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the NMAGO. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

An indictment or criminal complaint is only an accusation. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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