



PRESS RELEASE

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**ALBUQUERQUE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO
FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in federal court, Antonio Gallegos, 47, of Albuquerque, plead guilty to distribution and attempted distribution of child pornography under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office. At sentencing, Gallegos faces a maximum penalty of at least five years but not more than 20 years of imprisonment to be followed by up to a lifetime of supervised release. Gallegos also will be required to register as a sex offender. Gallegos has been in custody since his arrest on April 30, 2012, and will remain detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

Gallegos initially was arrested on a criminal complaint charging him with distribution, receipt and possession of child pornography. On May 23, 2012, Gallegos was indicted and charged with one count of distribution and attempted distribution of child pornography; three counts of receipt of child pornography; and one count of possession of child pornography. During this morning’s hearing, Gallegos entered a guilty plea to Count 1 of the Indictment charging him with distribution and attempted distribution of child pornography.

In his plea agreement, Gallegos admitted that from Aug. 6, 2011 through March 6, 2012, he knowingly distributed and attempted to distribute child pornography through a peer-to-peer filing sharing program. Gallegos acknowledged that investigators with the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force executed a search warrant at his residence on March 6, 2012, and seized computers and computer-related media containing child pornography. The search warrant was based on a New Mexico State Police (NMSP) investigation that began in Sept. 2011, and monitored Internet Protocol (IP) addresses that appeared to be used to distribute, receive and possess child pornography. IP addresses that were subscribed to Gallegos at his residence on the west side of Albuquerque were amongst the IP addresses identified by the investigation.

Gallegos also acknowledged that a forensic examination of his computer and computer-related media revealed thousands of images and videos of child pornography. Based on a preliminary report from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the child pornography images and videos found on Gallegos’ computers and computer-related media

include 20 images of 15 children who have been identified as child pornography victims and have been rescued.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the case against Gallegos was investigated by the FBI, the NMSP and the New Mexico Regional Computer Forensic Laboratory, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charlyn E. Rees.

Gallegos was arrested as part of Operation Artemis, an investigative effort by federal, state and local law enforcement affiliates of the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) aimed at identifying individuals throughout New Mexico involved in the distribution, receipt, and possession of child pornography through peer-to-peer file sharing programs. In March 2012, federal, state and local law enforcement officers executed thirteen unrelated federal and state search warrants at residences throughout New Mexico, and seized computers and computer-related evidence related to child pornography offenses. To date, seven individuals have been arrested for violating federal and state child pornography laws based on the search warrants executed as part of Operation Artemis. The law enforcement agencies that participated in Operation Artemis include: Homeland Security Investigations, NMSP, New Mexico Attorney General's Office, FBI, Albuquerque Police Department, Los Lunas Police Department, Santa Fe Police Department, Rio Rancho Police Department, and the New Mexico Regional Computer Forensic Lab.

Operation Artemis was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and DOJ's 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 <http://www.justice.gov/psc/>. <http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov>.

The Operation also was brought as a part of the New Mexico ICAC Task Force's mission, which is to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers in New Mexico. There are 64 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the ICAC Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

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