



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ST. CROIX MAN INDICTED FOR TRAVELING WITH INTENT TO HAVE SEX WITH MINOR
AND ENGAGING IN SEX WITH MINOR IN FOREIGN COUNTRY**

Victor Cancel, 45, of La Grande Princess, St. Croix was indicted today by a federal grand jury on St. Croix on charges of traveling with intent to have sex with a minor, and engaging in sex with a minor in a foreign country, Acting United States Attorney Paul A. Murphy and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent-in-Charge Manuel Oyola Torres announced today.

According to the two-count indictment, on or about September 27, 2008, Cancel, who is a United States citizen, knowingly traveled in interstate and foreign commerce from St. Croix to the Dominican Republic for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with an individual under the age of 18, and did engage in illicit sexual conduct with said individual.

On November 5, 2008, Cancel was also indicted in Puerto Rico on related charges. Specifically, he was charged with producing, transporting and possessing images involving the sexual exploitation of a minor; and enticing a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing images involving the sexual exploitation of a minor.

If convicted of traveling with the intent to have sex with a minor, Cancel faces 30 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The penalty is the same for engaging in sex with a minor in a foreign country.

Acting U.S. Attorney Murphy reminded the public that an indictment is merely a formal charging document and is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent until found guilty by a trial jury or otherwise in a court of law.

The indictment was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement as part of its nationwide initiative Operation Predator, and Project Safe Childhood, the U.S. Department of Justice's nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorney's Offices, 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 identify and rescue victims.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov. You may also call Assistant U.S. Attorney Denise A. Hinds in the U.S Attorney's Office at (340) 773-3920.

To report suspicious activity of suspected child predators, please call ICE's toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.