



U.S. Department of Justice

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 6, 2012

**Akeem Gumbs Sentenced to 25 Years in Prison for**  
**Aggravated Rape and Production of Child Pornography**

**St. Thomas, USVI** - District Court Judge Curtis V. Gomez, on September 6, 2012, sentenced Akeem Gumbs, 22, to 25 years in prison for aggravated rape and production of child pornography, announced United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent -in-Charge Roberto Escobar Vargas and Virgin Islands Police Department Commissioner Henry W. White, Jr.

The Court also sentenced Gumbs to a lifetime of supervised release, and ordered him to pay restitution to his minor victim in an amount to be determined at a later hearing. As a special condition of supervised release, Gumbs is required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

On February 13, 2012, after a two-day jury trial, Gumbs was convicted in District Court of 29 counts related to the rape and production of child pornography of the minor victim. Gumbs was found guilty of five counts of production of child pornography, one count of possession of child pornography and 19 counts of aggravated rape in the first degree.

According to the evidence presented at trial, the 8-year-old girl, along with her

brother and sister stayed with Gumbs and his mother because their mother worked at night. The victim's mother lived in a three-bedroom public housing apartment with her husband, while the victim, and her two siblings slept on the floor of their aunt's two-bedroom apartment. The victim testified that Gumbs would take her into his bedroom or into Gumbs' mother's bedroom and repeatedly rape her. According to testimony at trial, the rapes began in October 2009 and ended with Gumbs' arrest in March 2011. The victim further testified that Gumbs would use his camera to take pictures of her while he raped her. The victim's brother, then 12 years old, testified that he went into Gumbs' bedroom and saw pictures of Gumbs raping the 8-year-old victim on Gumbs' digital camera.

A federal agent testified at trial that on March 19, 2011, he executed a search warrant at Gumbs' home. In searching Gumbs' bedroom, he discovered a thumb drive, which when examined, revealed six video clips of Gumbs raping the 8-year-old child.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations and the Virgin Islands Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Everard E. Potter and Denise Hinds.