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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHARLES STEPHANO INDICTED ON FEDERAL
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

United States Attorney Anthony Jenkins and Manuel Oyola-Torres, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, announced today that a federal Grand Jury sitting on St. Croix returned a two-count Indictment naming as a defendant 67-year-old Charles Stephano of 12A LaGrande Princesse, Christiansted, St. Croix. The Indictment charges Charles Stephano with possession and receipt of child pornography in violation of federal law.

According to the Indictment, on or about May 5, 2005, Charles Stephano possessed and received images which contained visual depictions which involved conduct of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. According to the Indictment, the received images had been transported in interstate and foreign commerce by computer. The possessed images were produced using materials that had been transported in interstate and foreign commerce by computer.

The statutory punishment for Receipt and Possession of Child Pornography is not less than five years and not more than 20 years and a \$250,000 fine.

Stephano has been released on a Fifty-Thousand-Dollar unsecured bond pending trial. He is to surrender all computers and electronic devices capable of internet access to probation and have no contact with children.

U.S. Attorney Jenkins stated that this case was the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. U.S. Attorney Jenkins emphasized that an Indictment is merely a charging document and that, as in all criminal cases, the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted in a court of law. Trial in the case has been scheduled for November 20, 2006.

Stephano is being prosecuted by Denise Hinds, Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Jill Trumbull-Harris, Trial Attorney with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division.