



Department of Justice

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OHIO COUPLE INDICTED ON OBSCENITY CHARGES

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Assistant Attorney General Christopher A. Wray of the Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney Gregory A. White of the Northern District of Ohio, and Robin Dalglish, Inspector in Charge, Pittsburgh Division, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, announced today that a federal grand jury in Cleveland, Ohio has returned a seven-count indictment charging an Ohio couple, Ronald and Alina Urbassik, with mailing and transporting obscene material.

The indictment charges the Urbassiks with the crimes of conspiring to engage in the business of selling or transferring obscene matter in violation of Title 18 USC Sections 371 and 1466; mailing obscene matter, in violation of Title 18 USC Sections 1461 and 2; and engaging in the business of selling or transferring obscene matter, in violation of Title 18 USC Section 1466.

The indictment alleges that since 1990, the defendants have operated a catalog business that offers for sale hundreds of videotapes and DVDs depicting obscene matter, including sexually explicit conduct involving sado-masochism, defecation, urination and bestiality. The defendants are also alleged to have distributed these obscene matters using the United States mail.

Each of the counts carries a penalty of up to five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The indictment also seeks forfeiture, pursuant to Title 18 USC Section 1467. If convicted, the defendants may also be required to forfeit property that constitutes or is derived from traceable proceeds of these offenses and/or property that was used to commit or promote the commission of such offenses.

This case is being prosecuted by Trial Attorney Kayla Bakshi of the Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael A. Sullivan and Christian H. Stickan of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio. The case was investigated by the Cleveland Office of the United States Postal Inspection Service.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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