



## **NEWS RELEASE**

December 3, 2003

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California**

**United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam**

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego returned a three-count indictment charging BERNARD LAWRENCE RUSSELL, a resident of San Diego, with traveling in foreign commerce with intent to engage in a sexual act with a juvenile, producing child pornography, and possessing child pornography for importation into the United States.

The indictment alleges that the defendant traveled to the Philippines in October 2002 with the intent to engage in sexual activity with minors and, while in the Philippines, produced child pornography for the purpose of importation into the United States.

Russell faces up to 45 years imprisonment if convicted on all counts. In addition, he is subject to a fine of \$250,000, a mandatory special assessment of \$100.00, and a three-year term of supervised release per count.

United States Attorney Lam praised the efforts of the San Diego Office of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who conducted the investigation and arrested the defendant, as well as the efforts of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the United States Department of Justice who is assisting in the prosecution of this case.

#### **DEFENDANT**

BERNARD LAWRENCE RUSSELL

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

**COUNT 1**

Travel with Intent to Engage in Sexual Act with a Juvenile; Title 18 U.S.C., Sec. 2423(b)  
Maximum Penalty per count: fifteen years in custody

**COUNT 2**

Sexual Exploitation of a Child (Production of Child Pornography); Title 18 U.S.C., Sec. 2251(a)  
Maximum Penalty per count: twenty years in custody

**COUNT 3**

Possession of Child Pornography for Importation into the United States; Title 18 U.S.C., Sec. 2260  
Maximum Penalty per count: ten years in custody

**An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**