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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Pleads Guilty to Distributing Child Pornography - Collection Included More Than 20,000 Photos and 500 Videos -

WASHINGTON - A 39-year-old District of Columbia resident, Gustavo Chinchilla, has pled guilty to distribution of child pornography, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr., James W. McJunkin, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, and Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

Chinchilla entered his guilty plea today in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Beryl A. Howell. Under the terms of the plea agreement, the defendant has agreed to a sentence of 10 years in prison. Sentencing will take place on June 17, 2011. At the end of his prison term, Chinchilla will be deported, as he is not an American citizen. Chinchilla was subject to enhanced penalties because some of the images of child pornography involved prepubescent minors or minors who had not attained the age of 12 years, and some of the images and videos portrayed sadistic or masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence. Chinchilla admitted to distributing at least 10 images of child pornography, and possessing over 20,000 photographs and over 500 videos containing child pornography. This represents one of the largest collections of child pornography ever found in the District of Columbia.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline received complaint reports regarding child pornography being posted on the Internet from Ning, Inc., an Internet services company that allows registered users to create and customize their own websites which are hosted on Ning servers. Once a photograph is posted on a Ning website, it can be viewed and/or copied by other users around the world. The government investigation revealed that many of these complaints related to images posted by Chinchilla. Further investigation revealed that Chinchilla was uploading images from his residence in Northeast Washington, D.C. A search warrant was executed at Chinchilla's apartment, which revealed several computers which contained child pornography, and hundreds of CDs and DVDs containing child pornography. The search also uncovered handwritten notes listing websites that cater to

individuals interested in child pornography.

Subsequent to the search of his residence, law enforcement arrested Chinchilla. Chinchilla admitted that he knowingly sought images depicting children engaged in sexually explicit conduct approximately once or twice a week from various Ning websites and that he downloaded those images. Chinchilla also admitted uploading child pornography to Ning websites on at least two occasions.

This case was brought as part of the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood initiative and investigated by the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force, which includes members of the Metropolitan Police Department. In February 2006, the Attorney General created Project Safe Childhood, a 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.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen, Assistant Director McJunkin, and Chief Lanier commended the outstanding investigative work of Metropolitan Police Detectives Jonathan Andrews, Miguel Miranda, Timothy Palchak, and Detective Sargeant Morani Hines, and the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force. The volume of child pornography found in this case made it a particularly troubling and difficult investigation, but all law enforcement involved in the case performed admirably. They also praised the work of Assistant United States Attorney Catherine K. Connelly, who is prosecuting the case.

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