

Department of Justice

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Two Men Indicted on Child Pornography Charges

Peoria, Ill. – Indictments have been returned charging two Central Illinois men with child pornography offenses: Pablo Valencia-Lopez, aka Pablo Jacinto-Lopez, 26 or 28, of Bloomington, Ill. and Christopher O. Lutz, 42, of Princeton. The men, previously charged by criminal complaint, have each been charged in separate, unrelated cases in indictments returned late yesterday by a federal grand jury. Both cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk D. Schoenbein.

Lopez, of the 300 block of Mecherle Drive, Bloomington, Ill., was arrested on Sept. 26, 2012. Lopez appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge John A. Gorman, waived detention hearing, and was ordered to remain detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. The indictment charges Lopez with one count of receiving child pornography in August 2012. The charge was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service and the Bloomington Police Department.

If convicted, the statutory penalty for receipt of child pornography is a mandatory minimum of five years in prison to 20 years in prison and a term of supervised release of up to life following any term of imprisonment. If a defendant has a prior child sex abuse or child pornography conviction, the statutory penalty is not less than 15 years and up to 40 years in prison.

Lutz, no known street address, Princeton, was previously taken into custody on a criminal complaint filed on Sept. 20, 2012. Lutz appeared before U.S. Magistrate John A. Gorman Judge Bernthal, waived detention and preliminary hearing, and was ordered to remain detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service. The indictment charges Lutz with one count of possession of child pornography in June 2012. The charge against Lutz was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service, the Moline Police Department and the Princeton Police Department.

If convicted, the statutory penalty for possession of child pornography is up to ten years in prison and a term of supervised release of up to life following any term of imprisonment. If a defendant has a prior child sex abuse or child pornography conviction, the statutory penalty is not less than 10 years and up to 20 years in prison.

Each indictment seeks forfeiture of computers and related materials allegedly used to commit or promote the offenses.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; each defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

(More)

The case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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