

Department of Justice

United States Attorney James A. Lewis
Central District of Illinois

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CONTACT: SHARON PAUL
PHONE: (217) 492-4450

U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES "OPERATION BLUE MONDAY"

Eight Defendants Charged to Date with Child Pornography Offenses

Urbana, Ill. – On behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice, Jim Lewis, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, today recognized the collaborative work of investigators that has led to the indictment of eight defendants to date for federal child pornography offenses in east central Illinois. Homeland Security Investigations has partnered with the Urbana and Champaign Police Departments and others in this joint investigative effort, known as “Operation Blue Monday.”

A grand jury returned indictments yesterday charging two additional defendants, Remington L. Goodenough and Oscar Hernando Moreno Torres, bringing the total to eight defendants charged since the multi-county undercover operation began approximately five months ago. Trained through the Illinois Attorney General’s Office’s Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, law enforcement officers use investigative software and techniques to identify Internet Protocol (IP) addresses that offer to trade child pornography through the Internet. Upon identification of the IP address, agents continue their investigation to determine the subscriber information and gather evidence used to establish probable cause and make arrests.

U.S. Attorney Lewis commended the agencies and their designated officers for their commitment to share the burden of investigation and prosecution. “In Operation Blue Monday, law enforcement came together to work on a problem that is unfortunately too common in their jurisdictions: trading child pornography on the Internet. Working together, the officers gathered more evidence, made more arrests and gave us stronger cases, truly helping to protect young people in their communities.”

In addition to ICE’s Homeland Security Investigations, and the Urbana and Champaign Police Departments, additional assistance has been provided by members of the East Central Illinois Cyber Crimes Working group, including members of the Mattoon Police Department; the University of Illinois Police Department, the Decatur Police Department; the Vermilion County Sheriff’s Office; Illinois State Police; and the Illinois Secretary of State.

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The eight defendants, including the two indicted yesterday by a grand jury are charged as follows:

Remington L. Goodenough, 21, of Edina, Minn., a student at the University of Illinois, local address White Street, Champaign, Ill., arrested and charged by criminal complaint on Nov. 26, 2012; yesterday indicted and charged with one count each of trafficking, receiving and possession of child pornography. Goodenough was released to the custody of his parents as third party custodians following his initial court appearance before U.S. Magistrate Judge David G. Bernthal on Nov. 28.

Oscar Hernando Moreno Torres, 39, of the 2000 block of South Orchard Lane, Urbana, Ill., a student of the University of Illinois, Columbian National with student visa, arrested and charged by complaint on Nov. 27; yesterday indicted and charged with one count of possession of child pornography.

Erick Barthelemy, 27, of the 400 block of W. Vine St., Champaign, arrested and charged by complaint on Sept. 10; indicted on Oct. 4 charged with two counts of distribution and one count possession of child pornography; status conference scheduled on Jan. 24, 2013.

Danny L. Smith, of the 600 block of E. 13th St., Georgetown, Ill; arrested and charged by complaint on Sept. 11; indicted on Oct. 4 charged with three counts of distribution and one count possession of child pornography; status conference scheduled on Jan. 24, 2013.

Mu-Tsun Tsai, 27, of the 500 block of S. First Street, Champaign, a graduate student of the University of Illinois, Taiwanese National with student visa, arrested and charged by complaint on Jul. 24; indicted in August charged with three counts of distribution and one count possession of child pornography; status conference scheduled on Feb. 1, 2013.

Dustin R. Underwood, 19, of the 800 block of E. Webster St., Clinton, Ill. arrested and charged by complaint on Aug. 28; indicted in September charged with three counts of distribution and one count possession of child pornography; status conference scheduled on Feb. 1, 2013.

Parrish Kappes, 46, of the 700 block of Sunset Drive, Tuscola, Ill., arrested and charged by complaint on Oct. 16; indicted Nov. 7 charged with three counts of distribution and one count possession of child pornography; trial scheduled on Jan. 14, 2013.

Zachary M. Vincent, 21, of the 700 block of N. Carico Street, Tuscola, Ill., arrested and charged by complaint on Oct. 16; indicted Nov. 7, charged with three counts of distribution and one count possession of child pornography; trial scheduled on Jan. 14, 2013.

Each of the defendants, with the exception of Goodenough, has been ordered to remain detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

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If convicted, the statutory penalty for each count of the offenses of distribution, trafficking, and receipt of child pornography is a mandatory minimum five years to 20 years in prison, and up to life under supervised release. For possession of child pornography, the penalty is up to 10 years in prison and up to life supervised release.

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

These cases were 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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