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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2011  
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**DES PLAINES MAN CHARGED WITH TRANSPORTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

CHICAGO — A Des Plaines man was arrested Tuesday and charged with transporting child pornography via computer after federal agents searched his residence and found images of alleged child pornography. The defendant, **Bobby Cruz**, 32, was charged in a criminal complaint, Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Gary J. Hartwig, Special Agent-in-Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Chicago announced today.

Cruz appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Arlander Keys in U.S. District Court and was ordered to remain in federal custody pending a detention hearing at 3 p.m. tomorrow.

According to the complaint affidavit, on Sept. 14, 2011, Cruz sent an email to an undercover ICE agent with an attached zip file containing approximately 100 images of child pornography. The investigation began when agents learned that the same email account, later identified as belonging to Cruz, was used to trade hundreds of child pornography images with an unnamed individual in December 2010.

ICE agents linked the email account to Cruz's residence, according to the affidavit. During the search on Tuesday, agents conducted a preliminary review of a laptop computer and an external hard-drive and discovered numerous images and videos of alleged child pornography.

The investigation was part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennie Levin.

Transporting child pornography carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years in prison and a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. If convicted, the Court must impose a reasonable sentence under federal sentencing statutes and the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The public is reminded that a complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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