

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102



Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

More Information? Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

News on the Internet. News Releases and related documents are posted at our website.
Go to: <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

Contact:

Michael Drewniak, Public Affairs Officer
973-645-2888

cor11028.rel

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 28, 2008

New Jersey Man Caught via INTERPOL Appeal
Admits Traveling to Thailand to Sexually Abuse Young Boys

(More)

Public Affairs Office
Michael Drewniak, PAO

973-645-2888

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

NEWARK, N.J. – A New Jersey man pleaded guilty today to three counts of traveling in foreign commerce with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct and production and possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie and Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Department of Justice Criminal Division Matthew Friedrich announced.

Wayne Nelson Corliss, 59, of Union City, admitted that he traveled to Thailand each year from 2000 to 2002. In each instance, Corliss admitted he traveled with the intent to sexually abuse children and paid for access to children as young as six years old for sex. Corliss also admitted sexually abusing children in 2002 in Thailand for the purpose of photographing and videotaping the activity. In addition, Corliss admitted storing and possessing images of child pornography on his home computers.

Corliss pleaded guilty to three counts of engaging in illicit international sex tourism, one count of producing child pornography and one count of possession of child pornography. U.S. District Judge Joseph A. Greenaway, Jr. scheduled sentencing for Feb. 9. Corliss faces a mandatory minimum of 10 years in federal prison on the count of producing child pornography. However, in his plea agreement, Corliss accepted that the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines call for a range of between 262 and 327 months in prison.

“This individual engaged in among the most depraved conduct imaginable with helpless children,” said Christie. “Others involved in illicit sex tourism should take notice that, just like Mr. Corliss, law enforcement around the globe has the ability to locate you, prosecute you and send you to federal prison for a very long time.”

“The arrest earlier this year of this much sought after criminal was the result of superior international law enforcement cooperation and partnership,” said Mark Kelly, ICE Acting Special Agent in Charge in Newark. “Those who value the safety and well-being of the world’s children can also share in the success of getting this predator off the streets. The public played a very valuable and powerful role in teaming with law enforcement to bring justice.”

Following the guilty plea, Corliss was returned to custody where he has been since his arrest at his Union City home on May 8, two days after a public appeal for assistance from INTERPOL, the international police agency.

Corliss was identified in May after INTERPOL’s global appeal for information to identify a then-unknown male and released a photo of Corliss’ likeness to media around the world. The image was cropped from photos depicting him sexually abusing young children in Southeast Asia. Within 48 hours of the global appeal, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, coordinating with INTERPOL, the U.S. Attorney’s Office in New Jersey, and the Department of Justice Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section identified, located and arrested Corliss.

During the hearing today, Corliss also identified three other individuals, including John Wrenshall, a Canadian citizen and resident of Thailand, who Corliss said arranged to have young boys available to him, for a price, in Thailand. Corliss said he stayed at the home of Wrenshall

and engaged in sex acts with young boys there while visiting Thailand. Corliss also identified Mitchell Jackson and Burgess Lee Burgess, both of Alabama, who also traveled to Thailand to allegedly engage in the same conduct as Corliss with young boys. Jackson and Burgess await trial in the Southern District of Alabama, where they have been indicted.

The investigation is continuing as to Wrenshall.

The May release of Corliss' photo represented the second time that INTERPOL has launched a public appeal to identify a suspected child offender. A similar release last October led to the arrest in Thailand of Christopher Paul Neil. After Neil's arrest, in 2007, INTERPOL's General Assembly approved a resolution empowering the organization to publish information to request the public's assistance in child sex abuse investigations.

INTERPOL and ICE are partners in the Virtual Global Task Force, an international alliance of law enforcement committed to keeping children safe from child predators. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Lee D. Vartan of the U.S. Attorney's Office in New Jersey, and Trial Attorney Michael Yoon of the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section.

-end-

Defense Counsel for Corliss: Chester Keller, Esq., federal Public Defender's Office, Newark.