

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
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Atlantic City Pimp Indicted for Running a Child Exploitation Enterprise

(More)

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CAMDEN – An alleged Atlantic City pimp was arraigned today on a federal Superseding Indictment that charges him with running a child exploitation enterprise which recruited and prostituted minor girls as part of his interstate prostitution network, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Javon Gordon, 27, a.k.a. “Teflon,” of Vineland, was arraigned before U.S. District Judge Robert B. Kugler on an eight-count Superseding Indictment, which was returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 6, 2009. Judge Kugler continued the defendant’s detention without bail pending trial. Gordon has been detained since his arrest on a federal criminal Complaint on sept. 29, 2008.

The Superseding Indictment describes a scheme in which Gordon, in concert with three or more persons, operated a child exploitation enterprise that engaged in sex trafficking of children, sexual exploitation of children, distribution of child pornography, transportation of minors to engage in prostitution, aggravated assault, and kidnaping.

According to the Indictment, Gordon organized and managed a prostitution ring that operated from at least as early as September 2007 through July 2008 in Atlantic City and various other U.S. cities, including Washington, D.C., and Boston. The Indictment alleges that Gordon used the Internet to recruited minor girls and adult females in the Atlantic City area to work for him as prostitutes.

Gordon allegedly used a digital camera to take naked, partially-naked and sexually-suggestive pictures of the minor girls and adult females and then posted the images on various Internet websites, such as Craigslist and others, in an effort to advertise the prostitution services.

The Indictment alleges that Gordon controlled the behavior of his prostitutes through threats, coercion and physical violence. Furthermore, during the course of operating his prostitution enterprise, Gordon allegedly kidnaped and/or assaulted prostitutes who were unwilling to work for his prostitution enterprise.

Besides directing others to work as prostitutes for him, the Indictment alleges that Gordon directed others to post bail money for various individuals who were arrested; provide transportation for him and his prostitutes; provide technical computer assistance for him, thereby enabling him to advertise his prostitutes on the Internet and to avoid detection by law enforcement; and recruit adult females and minor girls to work as prostitutes.

The defendant is charged with one count each of running a child exploitation enterprise; sex trafficking of children; transportation of an adult to engage in prostitution; sexual exploitation of children; distribution of child pornography; and possession of child pornography. The defendant is also charged with two counts of transportation of minor to engage in prostitution.

The charge of running a child exploitation enterprise carries a mandatory minimum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and a maximum statutory penalty of life in prison. In addition, each count of sex trafficking of children and the transportation of minors for the purpose of prostitution carry maximum statutory penalties of life in prison. The charge of sexual exploitation of children carries a mandatory minimum statutory penalty of 15 years in prison and a maximum statutory penalty of 30 years in prison. Finally, the charge of distribution of child pornography carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and the charges of transportation of an adult to engage in prostitution and of possession of child pornography each carry a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years. All eight counts carry a maximum fine of \$250,000.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Kugler would, upon a conviction, consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Despite indictment, defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Fishman credited Special Agents of the FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun in Newark with the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jason M. Richardson and Matthew T. Smith of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Mark Catanzaro, Esq. Moorestown