

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maryland Man Admits Engaging in Sex Tourism Business

(More)

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NEWARK – The owner of a website called “LadyParadise.com” pleaded guilty today to sex tourism, admitting that he facilitated the travel of at least one other individual knowing that the purpose of the travel was for that person to engage in sexual activity with underage girls, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

Daniel Cuneo, 37, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, admitted before U.S. District Judge Jose L. Linares that he provided services to a potential customer, including offering to serve as that customer’s personal tour guide, in arranging a trip to the Philippines. Cuneo was arrested at a hotel nearly Newark Liberty International Airport on July 19, 2005, during the course of his travel from Gaithersburg to the Philippines.

The customer with whom Cuneo interacted was actually an undercover agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Cuneo was meeting this person at the time of his arrest.

At the plea hearing, Cuneo further admitted that he was aware that this customer wished to travel to the Philippines for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity with underage girls. Cuneo admitted that, during the duration of his relationship with this customer, he corresponded via e-mail, telephone and discussed during face-to-face meetings different arrangements for the trip, including hotel accommodations, transportation once in the Philippines, and the rental of a yacht. Cuneo also admitted to providing advice for locating underage girls in the Philippines that could be hired for sexual purposes. Cuneo admitted that he was to be paid for his services.

Cuneo pleaded guilty to engaging in sex tourism, which carries a maximum statutory penalty of 30 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Judge Linares scheduled sentencing for March 8.

Cuneo has been in custody since his arrest. His bail is currently set at \$1 million.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Kyle Hutchins, with the investigation of Cuneo.

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Defense Counsel:
Ramon W. Pagan, Esq.