

United States Attorney Southern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 23, 2007

CONTACT: <u>U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE</u> YUSILL SCRIBNER, REBEKAH CARMICHAEL PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE (212) 637-2600

## U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES CONTINUED EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

The announcement made today by the Ad Council, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children regarding the next phase of the campaign to prevent Online Sexual Exploitation highlights the importance of awareness on the part of teenage girls in order to prevent sexual exploitation by predators who target the girls through their online activities.

Project Safe Childhood is another important Department of Justice program. It is a nationwide initiative, led by U.S. Attorney's Offices, designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York ("USAO-SDNY") is dedicated to supporting the goals of Project Safe Childhood, and committed to working with other agencies to find and prosecute those who abuse children, as well as to identify and rescue victims.

The images of exploited children found during the course of investigations of child pornography or child enticement often include graphic, violent images of abuse of children and infants. Moreover, in addition to physical trauma, exploited children can suffer long-term and often serious psychological and emotional repercussions. Perpetrators of crimes against children often seem to be normal, even respected, members of the community. In the past few years the USAO-SDNY has prosecuted cases resulting in trial convictions of or guilty pleas from, a pediatrician, a high school assistant principal, a publisher at national entertainment magazine, a conductor of youth orchestras, a CEO of publicly traded company, a medical student seeking residency in obstetrics and gynecology, and a voice and drama teacher for child models, among others. The common thread in these cases is that all the defendants found their victims online -- through email, online classified services, registering misleading domain names, purchasing memberships to child porn sites, photo exchanges, or chat rooms.

Since the beginning of 2006, the year Project Safe Childhood was implemented, the USAO-SDNY has charged 46 individuals with crimes related to child exploitation. In fact, just within the past week, USAO-SDNY has partnered with other agencies to facilitate the arrests of three individuals for such crimes involving the Internet:

On March 21, 2007, agents from the child enticement unit of the Department of Homeland Security's United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") arrested TIMOTHY ARCHER for attempting to send obscene materials to a child under the age of 16. According to the Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court: ARCHER, who lives in Ohio, communicated online with an undercover officer of the New York Police Department ("NYPD") who was posing as a fourteen-year-old girl. Through emails and an internet "chat," ARCHER told the "girl" how to masturbate, and made multiple attempts to convince the "girl" to masturbate and tell ARCHER about it. ARCHER also sent the undercover officer numerous images of pornography, including child pornography depicting explicit sexual acts between minors and adults.

Today, ALAN SCHAEFER was arrested on charges of using the Internet to attempt to entice a minor -- whom he believed to be a thirteen-year-old girl -- to engage in sexual activities. According to the Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court: in July 2005, SCHAEFER engaged in Internet conversations with "Mary," an individual he believed to be a thirteen-year-old girl, but who was actually an undercover officer with the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"). During these conversations, SCHAEFER explicitly and graphically described the sexual activities in which he planned to engage with the "girl" when the two met in person. SCHAEFER revealed to the undercover officer that he worked as a music teacher at a middle school in Queens, New York. SCHAEFER then went to meet the "girl" in Manhattan.

Also today, MARVIN FALIKOVIC was arrested, by agents from ICE's Child Exploitation Unit, for receiving child pornography. According to the Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court: FALIKOVIC, who lives in Manhattan, paid a membership fee to join a web site called "Pedo Land," which depicted and made available for downloading numerous images of pre-pubescent girls engaged in oral sex and sexual intercourse with adult males. During a border search conducted by agents at JFK Airport upon FALIKOVIC's arrival from a trip to Thailand, ICE and other law enforcement agents located a video file on FALIKOVIC's laptop computer, which video depicted a pre-pubescent girl performing oral sex on an adult male. FALIKOVIC admitted that he had downloaded the video from the Internet.

The charges contained in the Complaints regarding ARCHER, SCHAEFER, and FALIKOVIC are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. More information regarding the arrests of these defendants is contained in individual Press Releases issued this week.

For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

07-71

###