



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 7, 2010

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**MAHOPAC MAN INDICTED FOR ALIEN SMUGGLING,
CHILD SEX CRIME, AND OTHER CHARGES**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and JAMES T. HAYES, JR., the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Office of the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), announced today the indictment of GEORGE VIEIRA on charges of alien smuggling, transportation of a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, and other charges. VIEIRA, 38, was arrested this afternoon. He was arraigned before United States Magistrate Judge GEORGE A. YANTHIS and held without bail.

According to the Indictment, in or about July 2007, VIEIRA transported three individuals from Peru to Mahopac, New York. VIEIRA did so intending, among other things, to engage in sexual activity with one of the individuals, a then 12 year-old girl. In a separate incident, VIEIRA sold a counterfeit DVD box set for his own private financial gain.

The Indictment charges VIEIRA with three counts of alien smuggling, each of which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense, one count of transportation of a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison, a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense, and one count of copyright infringement, which carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a maximum fine of \$100,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense.

U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said, "This kind of sordid and intolerable exploitation, if proven, carries severe penalties. Unfortunately, these crimes are not uncommon. Let it be known that the Southern District of New York and our law enforcement partners will make every effort to track down and prosecute perpetrators and thereby protect their potential victims."

"Today's arrest of Mr. Viera again demonstrates ICE's resolve to bring those individuals who engage in criminal sexual exploitation to justice" said JAMES T. HAYES, JR., special agent in charge of ICE's Office of Investigations in New York.

Mr. BHARARA thanked ICE and the Putnam County District Attorney's Office for their extraordinary work on this investigation.

This case is being handled by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant United States Attorney DOUGLAS B. BLOOM is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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