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WILDWOOD, NJ MAN CONVICTED IN CHILD SEX TOURISM CASE

NEWS RELEASE

PHILADELPHIA - Today, a federal court jury returned guilty verdicts on all counts against Anthony Mark Bianchi, including traveling in foreign commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct (4 counts), engaging in illicit sexual conduct in a foreign place (3 counts), using a facility in foreign commerce to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity (2 counts), and conspiracy.

Bianchi committed his crimes in Moldova and Romania. He was charged under a 2003 federal law that makes it illegal for Americans to commit sexual crimes against children in foreign countries. Ten of the victims crossed the globe to share their horrifying ordeal with an American jury.

“Sexual predators are a threat no matter the country in which they choose to commit their crimes. What makes this case so reprehensible, is that this defendant preyed on uniquely vulnerable children away from the spotlight of our justice system. It is gratifying that with its verdict, the jury has sent a strong message of deterrence; that Americans will not tolerate countrymen who travel overseas to pursue their victims,” said U.S. Attorney Patrick Meehan.

The guidelines Bianchi faces range from 292 to 365 months. He also faces a minimum mandatory of 5 years for counts 9 and 10. Sentencing is scheduled for November 1st.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael L. Levy and Kenya S. Mann. The investigating agency was Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case also received assistance from the following: U.S. Embassy Moldova, U.S. Embassy Romania, Diplomatic Security Services, Center for Combating Trafficking Against Women & Children (Moldova), Romanian Organized Crime Police, Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office, and North Wildwood Police Department.

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