



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Robert Pitman, U.S. Attorney

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**FORMER EL PASO TEACHER SENTENCED TO MAXIMUM FEDERAL PRISON SENTENCE
ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

United States Attorney Robert Pitman announced that in El Paso this afternoon, 35-year-old Marco Antonio Alferez was sentenced to statutory maximum of 50 years in federal prison followed by a lifetime of supervised release for the sexual exploitation of children and distribution of child pornography. In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Kathleen Cardone granted a monetary judgment against Alferez in the amount of \$248,359.02.

"Those who produce and traffic in child pornography should pay attention to this case. Mr. Alferez preyed upon the children of this community and, as a result, will spend the next 50 years in federal prison. We will continue to seek out, prosecute and punish those who abuse the trust and innocence of our children, and they will pay dearly," stated United States Attorney Robert Pitman.

According to the factual basis filed in this case, and admitted to by the defendant, investigators with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) Cyber Crimes Group executed a search warrant at the defendant's residence on September 21, 2010, and seized his computer and more than 100 videotapes. A subsequent forensics review of the computer revealed the presence of 98 child pornography videos downloaded from the Internet. The computer also contained approximately 150 self-produced, hidden camera videos depicting children in a dressing area during various stages of undress, including full nudity. In each of the self-produced videos, the defendant can be seen initially setting up the hidden camera and oftentimes heard off camera giving instructions to his students that they were required to take all of their clothes off in order to try on clothing he supplied. The videotapes also contained similar scenes of children from five different El Paso schools where Alferez taught including two elementary schools, one middle school and two high schools. Furthermore, the factual basis states that two of the self-produced, hidden camera videos depict Alferez engaging in sexual relations with a minor female. Altogether, Alferez's recordings contained approximately 400 child victims.

On August 2, 2011, Alferez pleaded guilty to one count each of sexual exploitation of children and distribution of child pornography for which he received consecutive 30-year and 20-year prison terms, respectively.

"Protecting children from sexual predators is paramount to HSI and the dedicated men and women charged with guarding the public safety of our community. We will continue to aggressively pursue child predators, working closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office to ensure these violators are punished to the fullest extent of the law," said Dennis A. Ulrich, acting special agent in charge of ICE HSI in El Paso.

Assistant United States Attorneys J. Brandy Gardes and Daniel Crumby prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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