



THE UNITED STATES
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JUSTICE NEWS

Department of Justice

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 21, 2015

California Operator of MyRedBook.com Sentenced to 13 Months in Prison for Facilitating Prostitution

Defendant Also Ordered to Forfeit More Than \$1.28 Million

A California man was sentenced to 13 months in prison today for his operation of the myRedBook.com website to facilitate prostitution. This represents the first federal conviction of a website operator for facilitation of prostitution.

Assistant Attorney General Leslie R. Caldwell of the Justice Department’s Criminal Division, U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag of the Northern District of California, Special Agent in Charge David J. Johnson of the FBI’s San Francisco Field Office and Special Agent in Charge José M. Martinez of the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI) Oakland Field Office made the announcement.

Eric Omuro, also known as Red, 53, of Mountain View, California, pleaded guilty on Dec. 11, 2014, before U.S. District Judge William H. Orrick of the Northern District of California to using a facility of interstate commerce with the intent to facilitate prostitution. As part of his plea agreement, Omuro agreed to forfeit more than \$1.28 million in cash and property, as well as the sfRedBook.com and myRedBook.com domain names.

In connection with his guilty plea, Omuro admitted that from April 2010 until June 25, 2014, he owned, managed and operated a website known as myRedBook.com, which was previously known as sfredbook.com. Omuro admitted that the website hosted advertisements posted by prostitutes containing explicit photos, graphic descriptions of sexual services offered and rates for the sexual services. The advertisements were searchable by geographic location, including cities throughout California, other U.S. states and Canada.

Omuro admitted that members of his website and prostitutes typically used acronyms for sex acts, which were defined in graphic detail in the website’s “Terms and Acronyms” section. While prostitutes could post advertisements for free, myRedBook.com offered additional options for a





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fee. For example, prostitutes could pay a fee to have their advertisement featured more prominently on the website. Similarly, customers could access myRedBook.com for free. If a customer purchased a membership, however, the customer obtained early and enhanced access to prostitute reviews, enhanced prostitute review search options and access to additional VIP forums, among other things.

According to an affidavit submitted in connection with the sentencing hearing, the FBI identified more than 50 juveniles who were also advertised on myRedBook for the purpose of prostitution.

This case was investigated by the FBI's San Francisco Field Office, the IRS-CI and the Oakland, California, Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section and U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of California. The Criminal Division's Office of International Affairs provided assistance to the prosecution.

15-660

Criminal Division

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