



Department of Justice

United States Attorney's Office
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GRANITE FALLS MAN SENTENCED TO 7+ YEARS IN PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Man Sent More Than 8,000 Images Using Computer Chat Program

GORDON LEE PARKIN, 49, of Granite Falls, Washington, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Seattle to 87 months in prison and lifetime supervised release for distribution of child pornography. U.S. District Judge James L. Robart will hold a hearing next month regarding restitution for one of the known victims in the case. PARKIN was identified by investigators with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as using the Google "Hello" chat program to send more than 8,000 images of child pornography. At sentencing Judge Robart said PARKIN would be required to register as a sex offender when released from prison.

On July 30, 2008, agents executed a search warrant at PARKIN's Granite Falls residence. The agents discovered thousands of images of child pornography on PARKIN's computer. In addition agents found PARKIN had taken more than 200 pictures of children in the neighborhood. Some were close-up shots attempting to photograph the underwear of young girls.

The chat logs on PARKIN's computer revealed that he had exchanged 8,645 still images and 11 movies of child pornography. In some instances PARKIN sent more than 750 images at a time to others via the chat program. Many of the images are of victims who have been identified by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. One of those victims has requested restitution from any defendant found to have distributed photos of her victimization. In August, Judge Robart will consider the level of restitution in PARKIN's case.

PARKIN has been detained at the Federal Detention Center at SeaTac since his arrest in July, 2008. He pleaded guilty in January 2009.

In asking for prison time and lifetime supervised release, Assistant United States Attorney Aravind Swaminathan described how trading child pornography repeatedly victimizes innocent children. "Each time an image of a child victim is traded – especially to an individual who has not seen such image in the past – the child victim is victimized all over again.... Parkin's conduct is particularly egregious given the number of child pornography images – at least 8,645 – that he traded with others. With a single key stroke, Parkin cavalierly transmitted hundreds of child pornography images to other Google Hello users," Mr. Swaminathan wrote in his sentencing memo.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the U.S. Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Aravind Swaminathan.

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