



Department of Justice

United States Attorney R. Alexander Acosta
Southern District of Florida

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CONTACT: BOB TROESTER
PHONE: (405) 553-8999
FAX: (405) 553-8742

JUDGE SENTENCES DEFENDANT TO 10 YEARS IN JAIL FOR ATTEMPTING TO TRANSPORT A MINOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENGAGING IN PROSTITUTION

MIAMI, FLORIDA - R. Alexander Acosta, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida and Jonathan Solomon, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), announced that **Michael Miller**, 29, of Miami, Florida, was sentenced on October 16, 2006 by U.S. District Court Judge Federico Moreno to a total of 10 years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to one count of attempting to transport a minor for the purpose of engaging in prostitution, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2421.

Miller's arrest was part of a sting operation initiated by the FBI's Minor Vice Task Force, in partnership with City of Miami Police Department, Miami-Dade Police Department and the Miami Beach Police Department, as a part of the "Innocence Lost" initiative. The "Innocence Lost" initiative is a cooperative effort between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice, in partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which focuses on child victims of interstate sex trafficking.

From between February 2006 and April 6, 2006, defendant Michael Miller acted as the "pimp" of a 14-year-old female. During this period, Miller transported the juvenile victim throughout Florida for the purpose of prostitution. During this time, Miller also orchestrated a plan to travel with the juvenile victim to Georgia, where he expected her to continue in prostitution.

On April 6, 2006, members of the City of Miami Police Department arrested the juvenile victim for solicitation of prostitution. After interviewing her, the police officers learned that she was only 14 years old. The officers also learned the identity of her "pimp," Michael Miller. A female officer, impersonating the juvenile victim, called Miller and asked him to pick her up at a specified location. Miller replied, "Oh, where I dropped you off. I'll pick you up right there." Upon his arrival, Miller was arrested by FBI agents.

Mr. Acosta commended the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Minor Vice Task Force and the Special Victims Unit of the City of Miami Police Department, and the U.S. Marshals Service for their handling of this case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Karlyn J. Hunter.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. 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/.