



# Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2009

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## **FOUR MEN ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPT TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITIES WITH MINORS**

SAN JUAN, P.R. - On June 3, 2009, a grand jury charged four individuals in separate indictments with attempting to transfer obscene matters to who they believed to be female minor under the age of sixteen, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1470, announced United States Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodríguez-Vélez.

Walter J. Madera-Ortiz, 55, commentator and reporter for the Superior League Basketball team Cangrejeros de Santurce, was arrested yesterday afternoon by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. Madera-Ortiz is facing seven counts of the same criminal offense. The other three defendants who were arrested today are: Orlando Díaz-Avilés, 46, Jorge Galarza-Dones, 48 and Emeterio Santiago-Maldonado, 58.

These four individuals used the Internet chat rooms, such as Yahoo Chat or Latin Chat, and the computer messaging system MSN, to make contact with whom they believed to be minor under the age of sixteen (16) and engage in sexually explicit conversations and sent obscene matters.

“The US Attorney’s Office in Puerto Rico and law enforcement officials urge all citizens to increase their awareness about the possible threats that internet use may pose to our children. We must help protect our children from the exploitation of online predators,” said United States Attorney Rosa E. Rodríguez-Vélez. “*Project Safe Childhood* is an initiative of the Department of Justice aimed at preventing the abuse and exploitation of children by use of the Internet and other mediums. One of such crimes is the use of internet to transfer obscene matters to minors under the age of sixteen.”

If convicted of the offenses alleged in the indictments, the defendants could face a term of imprisonment of no more than ten (10) years, a fine not to exceed two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000), and a term of supervised release of up to life.

All four cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jenifer Y. Hernández-Vega, who coordinates the Project Safe Childhood initiative. The investigations were conducted by ICE agents.

Criminal indictments are only charges and not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed to be innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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