



Department of Justice

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WISCONSIN MAN SENTENCED TO NINE YEARS FOR POSSESSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

MADISON, WISCONSIN - Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Terry J. Hansen, 30, Wausau, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. Chief District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to over nine years in prison, followed by a lifetime of supervised release, for possession and distribution of child pornography. Hansen pleaded guilty to this charge on February 21, 2007.

The evidence showed that during 2003 and 2004, Hansen created and hosted numerous internet groups to facilitate the receipt and distribution of child pornography. Hansen explained that if one group was shut down by the service provider, he would simply create another group in its place. Hansen's sentence was enhanced based on the number of images he possessed, the sadistic nature of some of the images he possessed, as well as his distribution of images with the expectation of receiving more images in return.

Judge Crabb stated she was concerned with whether Hansen could empathize with, or have an understanding of what victims of child pornography go through. Judge Crabb asked Hansen how he would feel if a child he knew and cared for was assaulted, frightened, and victimized the way these children were in the images he possessed. Judge Crabb urged Hansen to think about the impact of his crimes on those children who have been victimized by child pornography.

This case has been 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.

The charges against Hansen were the result of an investigation conducted by the Department of Homeland Security - Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Norwegian

National Criminal Investigation Service. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura A. Przybylinski Finn.

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