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## **NATCHITOCHESES MAN CONVICTED IN FEDERAL COURT FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

*Faces Up to 20 Years In Prison For Internet Pornography*

**ALEXANDRIA, LOUISIANA** . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that COLUMBUS MOORE, age 34, of Natchitoches, Louisiana, was convicted by a federal jury today of receipt and possession of child pornography following a three-day trial. Sentencing is set for January 8, 2010.

Trial testimony established that in October 2008, the Louisiana State Police conducted an undercover operation in Alexandria, Louisiana, which led to the discovery of several online child pornography images that were made available on the internet by MOORE. It was established that between February 18, 2008, and on or about November 5, 2008, MOORE knowingly received and possessed images of child pornography on his computer. MOORE's computer was seized as a result of a Louisiana State Police investigation, and a forensic search of the computer revealed approximately 25 hardcore videos of child pornography.

MOORE faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years in prison and a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, a \$ 250,000.00 fine, or both. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

U. S. Attorney Donald Washington stated: “Individuals who download child pornography or make it available on the internet will continue to be aggressively pursued by this office. The victims of these crimes are the children depicted in the images that are circulated over and over, with no end to the devastation and victimization of these children.”

This case was brought by the Louisiana State Police as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Project Safe Childhood was created as a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorney’s 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](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

This case was investigated by the Louisiana State Police and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Earl M. Campbell.

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