
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**
 :
 v. : Magistrate No. 20-13487
 :
 JOSEPH GANARO :

I, Bradley J. Benwell, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.

s/ Bradley J. Benwell

Special Agent Bradley J. Benwell
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Homeland Security Investigations

SA Benwell attested to this Complaint
by telephone pursuant to FRCP 4.1(b)(2)(A),
on October 27, 2020 in the District of New Jersey

HONORABLE LEDA DUNN WETTRE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE


Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

Count One
(Distribution of Child Pornography)

From on or about February 1, 2019 through on or about October 27, 2020, in Bergen County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere,
defendant

JOSEPH GANARO

did knowingly receive and distribute material containing child pornography, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(8), using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce and that had been mailed, and had been shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A(a)(2)(B) and Section 2.

ATTACHMENT B

I, Bradley J. Benwell, am a Special Agent with the United States Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations. I am fully familiar with the facts set forth herein based on my own investigation, my conversations with other law enforcement officers, and my review of reports, documents, and evidence. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and part. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date alleged. Because this Complaint is being submitted for a limited purpose, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation.

Background

1. At all times relevant to this Complaint, defendant Joseph Ganaro (“Ganaro”) was a resident of Lodi, Bergen County, New Jersey.

The Investigation

2. The “BitTorrent Network” is a publicly available online peer-to-peer (“P2P”) file-sharing network, that is, a worldwide network of linked computers. To access the BitTorrent Network, a user must first download P2P software (the “Software”), which is widely available for free on the Internet. The Software allows the user to (1) place files into a designated “shared” folder on his or her hard drive, from which other BitTorrent users can then download those files directly to the “shared” folders of their own computers; and (2) browse, search, select, and directly download, into his or her “shared” folder, files from the “shared” folders of other BitTorrent users. The Software typically keeps a log of each download event, and forensic examiners can often determine, using such logs, from which Internet Protocol (“IP”) address— that is, from which unique computer or device – a user obtained a particular file.

3. From on or about February 1, 2019, through on or about August 9, 2019 and from on or about April 1, 2020 through on or about June 28, 2020 (collectively, the “2020 Sessions”) law enforcement used special software to access the BitTorrent Network and downloaded 10 video files containing child pornography from a certain IP address (the “Target IP Address”). During the 2020 Sessions, it was determined that the computer using the Target IP Address was configured to allow any BitTorrent client computer to browse and download from the computer’s designated share folder.

4. I have reviewed the multiple files that law enforcement downloaded from the Target IP Address via the BitTorrent Network during the 2020 Sessions. The following is a representative sample of the files that I reviewed:

FILENAME	DESCRIPTION
File Name/Number: 000001429.mp4 Hash Value: C4ECFC8019D3333F231054A2D5540310	This video, which is 2:47 in length, consists of a prepubescent female engaging in a sexually explicit activity with an adult male. The video begins with a tight close-up of an adult male vaginally penetrating a prepubescent female.
File Name/Number: 000001429.mp4 Hash Value: A375D9829F36E39EC60AD72970E44389	This video is 41 seconds in length and depicts a prepubescent female engaged in sexually explicit activity with an adult male. The prepubescent female is naked and lying on a bed with light colored sheets. She is visible from her neck to her thighs. Her legs are spread, exposing her genital area. She rubs her vagina with her right hand while a naked adult male hovers over the female and masturbates.
File Name/Number: Three girls one man (suck, sex toys, [uck]).mpg	This video, which was partially downloaded and would run approximately 24 minutes in length if fully downloaded, spends its first eight seconds depicting a close-up of an adult male rubbing his erect penis against the exposed vaginal area of a prepubescent female.

5. Based upon my education, training, and experience, and my discussions with other law enforcement officers, and to the best of my knowledge, the files described in paragraph 4 above traveled in interstate commerce, via the Internet.

6. On or about January 24, 2020, in response to a subpoena, law enforcement received documents that indicated that the Target IP Address is assigned to an internet service provider account (the "Account") subscribed to a residence in Lodi, New Jersey (the "Residence"). Documents received by law enforcement indicated that the Account had been created on or about November 29, 2000. On or about September 11, 2020, law enforcement received additional records confirming that the Target IP Address remained subscribed to the Residence and that the Account remained active. Law enforcement also received IP logs that indicated that the Target IP Address had been assigned to

the Account from at least on or about September 9, 2019 until on or about July 4, 2020.

7. On or about September 29, 2020, law enforcement confirmed with the United States Postal Service that defendant Ganaro receives mail at the Residence, which is a single-family home.

8. On or about October 27, 2020, law enforcement executed a lawfully obtained search warrant at the Residence, where law enforcement discovered and seized, among other things, computer equipment belonging to defendant Ganaro (the "Computer"). A preliminary examination of that equipment revealed that the Computer contained the BitTorrent software. Law enforcement also obtained defendant Ganaro's New Jersey driver's license, which had his address as the Residence.

9. On or about October 27, 2020, after being advised of his Miranda rights, defendant Ganaro made a recorded statement. He admitted that the Computer was used exclusively by him. He admitted to having downloaded less than 50 videos and/or images of child pornography over approximately two years. He admitted that these videos contained 5-15 year-old girls engaged in sexual acts. He also admitted that he knew that receiving and possessing child pornography was illegal. He admitted that he searched the BitTorrent Network using the search term "siberian mouse," which is a term known to be associated with child pornography on the BitTorrent Network.