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News Release

Bend Police arrest multiple people during four-month human trafficking project (Photo) - 09/08/22

Date: September 8, 2022



Press Release

Incident: Human trafficking project from May 19 through August 23 results in multiple arrests

Arrested:

- Mathieu Ackah, 46-year-old Oxnard, Calif., resident: luring a minor for sexual conduct
- Christopher Arroway, 30-year-old Bend resident: purchasing sex with a minor, patronizing a prostitute, attempted rape III (arrest #2)
- Gage Bergeron, 31-year-old Bend resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, attempted rape III, delivery of a controlled substance to a minor (marijuana)
- David Burnham, 73-year-old Bend resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, patronizing a prostitute, purchasing sex with a minor, attempted rape III
- Forrest Dodge, 28-year-old Bend resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, patronizing a prostitute, attempted sodomy III, purchasing sex with a minor
- Cody Fortune, 32-year-old Bend resident: luring a minor for sexual conduct, patronizing a prostitute, attempted rape III
- Ryan Frye, 23-year-old Bend resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, patronizing a prostitute, purchasing sex with a minor
- Rene Hernandez, 28-year-old Bend resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, patronizing a prostitute, attempted sodomy III, purchasing sex with a minor, parole violation, endangering the welfare of a minor
- Joshua Huddleston, 45-year-old Bend resident: attempted rape III, attempted delivery of a controlled substance to a minor (marijuana)

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- James Kapsalis, 26-year-old Redmond resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, attempted rape III, delivery of marijuana to a minor
- Miles Leffler, 40-year-old Sisters resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, patronizing a prostitute, purchasing sex with a minor
- Devin Linker, 34-year-old Redmond resident: luring a minor for sexual conduct, online sexual corruption of a child I, purchasing sex with a minor, attempted rape III, patronizing a prostitute
- Ian McCord, 38-year-old Prineville resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, attempted sodomy III, attempted rape III
- Jorge Beltran Mendoza, 29-year-old Redmond resident: luring a minor for sexual conduct, online sexual corruption of a child I, purchasing sex with a minor, attempted sodomy III, patronizing a prostitute
- Waynerd Montgomery, 47-year-old Redmond resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, patronizing a prostitute, purchasing sex with a minor, attempted rape III, escape III, criminal mischief III, resisting arrest
- Jacob Schneider, 36-year-old Bend resident: luring a minor for sexual conduct, online sexual corruption of a child I, purchasing sex with a minor, attempted rape III, patronizing a prostitute
- Connor Strupith, 22-year-old Redmond resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, attempted furnishing liquor to a minor
- Isaac Testerman, 41-year-old Bend resident: purchasing sex with a minor, patronizing a prostitute, attempted rape III
- Eduardo Vega-Ruiz, 22-year-old Madras resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, patronizing a prostitute, attempted sodomy III, purchasing sex with a minor, attempted rape III, escape III, attempt to elude (felony), attempted assault on a public safety officer, reckless driving
- Dylan Zook, 20-year-old La Pine resident: online sexual corruption of a child I, luring a minor for sexual conduct, patronizing a prostitute, attempted sodomy III, purchasing sex with a minor

Over several months, Bend Police conducted a project dedicated to combating human trafficking, sex work and luring of minors, with an emphasis on identifying and arresting people who are attempting to meet underage children for sex. Over the course of this project, 20 adults were arrested for various crimes associated with attempting to lure and engage in sexual acts with minors.

Bend Police officers posted ads online, then posed as minors in both text and phone conversations. Over the course of the project, people at more than 200 distinct phone numbers answered officers' ads. Many of those people, upon learning they were apparently communicating with a minor, immediately cut off communication. However, of the 200-plus people who answered Bend Police's online ads and learned of a minor child being trafficked for sex, not one subsequently shared that information with law enforcement.

Police clearly identified themselves as underage. Those arrested then agreed to meet, sometimes bringing drugs and alcohol to the agreed-upon location. Upon arrival, they were taken into custody on the above charges and lodged at the Deschutes County Jail.

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During the course of the project, multiple people came forward and identified themselves as victims of sexual abuse at the hands of these suspects. Bend Police are asking the public to contact nonemergency dispatch at 541-693-6911 if you or someone you know is the victim of any of these suspects.

Bend Police want our community to know we are proactively investigating these crimes. We will continue to conduct projects like this in the future. This outreach will also let potential predators know our community is vigilant. Our goal is to identify traffickers and prevent this activity from taking place in our community. During the operation, Bend Police saw a significant decrease for demand in sex work in our community, and by extension, a decrease in sex workers operating in our community.

Bend Police would also like to remind parents, guardians and caregivers to stay involved in their children's digital world, know the apps they are using and implement parental controls when possible. Children should talk with a trusted adult so they understand online risks, only chat with people they know, and make sure their online accounts are private. There are people who target vulnerable youth via online apps and other internet sources, and we have to work together to keep our children safe.

During the course of this investigation, Bend Police also arrested eight people who attempted to patronize adult sex workers. They were cited and released. Patronizing a prostitute is a Class A misdemeanor.

- Benjamin Adams, 43-year-old Las Vegas, Nev., resident: patronizing a prostitute
- Christopher Arroway, 30-year-old Bend resident: patronizing a prostitute (arrest #1)
- Dennis Dewitt, 71-year-old Bend resident: patronizing a prostitute
- Zachary Douglas, 33-year-old Bend resident: patronizing a prostitute
- Caleb Gump, 24-year-old Bend resident: patronizing a prostitute
- Thomas Myers, 38-year-old Bend resident: patronizing a prostitute
- Tenzin Norbu Sherpa, 37-year-old Bend resident: patronizing a prostitute
- Casey Vitale, 36-year-old Lebanon resident: patronizing a prostitute

Attached Media Files: Press Release

View more news releases from Bend Police Dept..







LOCAL NEWS





Bend Music Teacher Arrested For Child Porn

Posted About A Week Ago by KBND News BEND, OR -- A Bend teacher was arrested Thursday morning for possessing explicit images of children. On Sunday, Bend Police

received a report from the Department of Justice's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force indicating a video containing child sexual abuse had been uploaded and linked to Erik Ekstrom's digital devices. Ekstrom is a 35-year-old Bend resident and a music teacher in Bend-La Pine Schools. He's also listed as the Music Director for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Oregon.

Further investigation revealed additional tips from the task force connected to Ekstrom's digital devices.

At 7 a.m. Thursday, police executed a search warrant in the 1200 block of NE Viking Avenue in Bend. Investigators seized multiple digital devices and Ekstrom was arrested on suspicion of two counts of first-degree encouraging child sexual abuse.

This investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Ian Macdonell at non-emergency dispatch: 541-693-6911.

Read All



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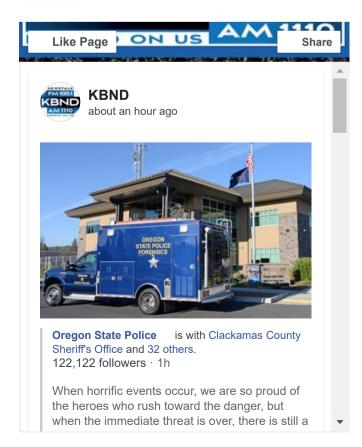
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ΝΔΤΙΩΝ

Man gets life plus 300 years in prison for making child porn

Associated Press | SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 — 6:07PM Listen with Speechify

EL PASO, Texas — A Texas Panhandle man was sentenced Wednesday to life plus 300 years in federal prison after he pleaded guilty to aggravated sexual assault of a child and 10 counts of producing child pornography, including filming himself sexually assaulting children, officials said.

Johnny George Gonzalez, 35, admitted to filming himself sexually abusing at least six children, ranging in age from 4 to 10 years old, beginning in 2014. He then shared the material on the internet, according to a statement by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas.

Gonzalez also admitted to secretly making sexually suggestive videos of children at stores across El Paso.

U.S. District Judge Frank Montalvo sentenced Gonzalez to life imprisonment and added 300 years to the sentence, to be served consecutively with the life sentence.

Canadian authorities detected his activities late last summer and alerted the FBI, which executed a search warrant at Gonzalez's home in El Paso. Agents said they found more than 65 electronic devices, including laptop computers, desktop computers, computer hard drives, cellphones, thumb drives and tablets.

At least 13 different series of child sexual abuse material Gonzalez produced, as well as about 1 million images and videos of child pornography and erotica, have been found so far on the devices, prosecutors said.

"For eight years, Gonzalez documented his depraved sexual abuse through photographs and videos, which he then shared with pedophiles around the world," said U.S. Attorney Ashley C. Hoff. "The heinous nature of his conduct will digitally live forever and continue to victimize these children. While this sentence will not repair their pain and damage, it will ensure he will never again have the opportunity to prey upon children."



Gonzalez has remained in federal custody since September 2021 and entered his guilty pleas on May 25.

The sentencing came almost a week after a Dallas-area man was sentenced to 60 years in federal prison after admitting to filming himself raping a 7-year-old girl. Mark Allen Miller, 35, of Rowlett, was arrested on Jan. 12 after the girl's father, with whom Miller was staying, said he walked in on Miller raping the girl, who was 9 years old at the time. Miller admitted to police that he had been molesting the girl for years, prosecutors said.

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October 06, 2021

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS EL PASO DIVISION

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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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DEPUTY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Plaintiff.

v.

JOHNNY GEORGE GONZALEZ,

Defendant.

CAUSE NO. EP-21-CR-

INDICTMENT CR-01657-FM

CT 1: 18 U.S.C. § 2241(c) – Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child; and

CT 2: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(a) & (e) – Production of a Visual Depiction of a Minor Engaging in Sexually Explicit Conduct; and

CT 3: 18 U.S.C. § 2423(b) – Travel With Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct; and

CT 4: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(d)(1)(A) and (e) – Advertising of a Visual Depiction Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; and

CT 5: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(2) and (b)(1) – Receipt and Distribution of a Visual Depiction Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor; and

CT 6: 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(4)(A), (B), and (b)(2) – Possession of a Visual Depiction Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor (Prepubescent/Under 12 years of Age).

Notice of Government's Demand for Forfeiture

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES THAT:

COUNT ONE

(18 U.S.C. § 2241(c) – Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child)

On or about July 31, 2021, in the Western District of Texas, the District of New Mexico, and the Northern District of Texas, Defendant,

JOHNNY GEORGE GONZALEZ,

did knowingly cross a State line with intent to engage in a sexual act, to wit, the intentional touching, not through the clothing, of the genitalia of another person who had not attained the age of sixteen (16) years with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, and arouse and gratify the sexual desire of any person, with Minor A, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2241(c).

COUNT TWO

(18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(a) & (e) – Production of Child Pornography)

Between on or about July 31, 2021, and continuing through and including on or about August 4, 2021, in the Western District of Texas, the District of New Mexico, and the Northern District of Texas, Defendant,

JOHNNY GEORGE GONZALEZ,

did employ, use, persuade, induce, entice, and coerce any minor, to wit, Minor A, to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing any visual depiction of such conduct, using materials that have been mailed, shipped, and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, and the visual depiction was transported using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce, and the visual depiction was transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251(a) and (e).

COUNT THREE

(18 U.S.C. § 2423(b)) – Travel With Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Conduct)

On or about July 31, 2021, in the Western District of Texas, the District of New Mexico, and the Northern District of Texas, Defendant,

JOHNNY GEORGE GONZALEZ,

did travel in interstate and foreign commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct,

as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2423(f), with another person, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 2423(b).

COUNT FOUR

(18 U.S.C. §§ 2251(d)(1)(A) and (e) – Advertising of a Visual Depiction Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor)

Between on or about April 1, 2021, and continuing through and including on or about June 4, 2021, in the Western District of Texas, and elsewhere, Defendant,

JOHNNY GEORGE GONZALEZ,

knowingly made, printed, and published a notice and advertisement offering to exchange, display, and distribute one or more visual depictions, the production of which involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct and which visual depictions were of such conduct, knowing and having reason to know that such notice and advertisement would be transported using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce and in and affecting such commerce by any means including by computer, and where such notice and advertisement was actually transported using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce and in or affecting such commerce by any means including by computer, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2251(d)(1)(A) and (e).

COUNT FIVE

(18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(2) and (b)(1) – Receipt and Distribution of a Visual Depiction Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor)

Between on or about May 1, 2021, and continuing through and including on or about August 3, 2021, in the Western District of Texas, and elsewhere, Defendant,

JOHNNY GEORGE GONZALEZ,

did knowingly receive and distribute any visual depiction that had been mailed and transported in interstate and foreign commerce, and which contains materials which had been so transported, by

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any means including by computer, the production of which involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct and which visual depiction was of such conduct, all in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252(a)(2) and (b)(1).

COUNT SIX

18 U.S.C. §§ 2252(a)(4)(A),)(B), (b)(2) and 7 (Possession of a Visual Depiction Involving the Sexual Exploitation of a Minor-Prepubescent/Under 12 years of Age)

On or about September 9, 2021, in the Western District of Texas, Defendant,

JOHNNY GEORGE GONZALEZ,

did knowingly possess matter, which contained any visual depiction, the production of which involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(2), which visual depictions had been produced using material transported in interstate and foreign commerce, to wit: by computer, and were produced using materials which had been shipped and transported in interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, and the production of which involved the use of a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct, said minor being prepubescent and having not attained the age of twelve (12) years, and such visual depictions were of such conduct, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252(a)(3)(A), (B), and (b)(2).

NOTICE OF GOVERNMENT'S DEMAND FOR FORFEITURE [See Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2]

I.

Sexual Exploitation of Children Violations and Forfeiture Statutes
[Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 2241(c), 2251(a),(e) & (d)(1)(A), 2423(b), 2252(a)(2), (b)(1), (a)(4)(A),
(B), and (b)(2), subject to criminal forfeiture pursuant to Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 2428 and
2253(a)(1), (2), and (3)]

As a result of the criminal violations set forth in Counts One through Six, the United States gives notice of its intent to seek the forfeiture of certain property from Defendant **JOHNNY GEORGE GONZALEZ** upon conviction and pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32.2 and Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 2428, and 2253(a)(1), (2), and (3), which state:

18 U.S.C. § 2428. Forfeitures

* * *

- (a) **In general.-** The court, in imposing sentence on any person convicted of a violation of this chapter, shall order, in addition to any other sentence imposed and irrespective of any provision of State Law, that such person shall forfeit to the United States-
 - (1) such person's interest in any property, real or personal, that was used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate the commission of such violation; and
 - (2) any property real or personal, constituting or derived from any proceeds that such person obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of such violation.

Title 18 U.S.C. § 2253. Criminal Forfeiture * * *

- (a) **Property subject to criminal forfeiture.-** A person who is convicted of an offense under this chapter involving a visual depiction described in section 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, or 2260 of this chapter or who is convicted of an offense under section 2251B of this chapter, or who is convicted of an offense under chapter 109A, shall forfeiture to the United States such person's interest in-
 - (1) any visual depiction described in section 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, or 2260 of this chapter, or any book, magazine, periodical, film, videotape, or other matter which contains any such visual depiction, which was produced, transported, mailed, shipped or received in violation of this chapter;
 - (2) any property, real or personal, constituting or traceable to gross profits or other proceeds obtained from such offense; and
 - (3) any property, real or personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to promote the commission of such offense or any property traceable to such property.

This Notice of Demand for Forfeiture includes but is not limited to the properties described in Paragraph II.

II. **Properties**

- 1. Any and all other property and/or accessories involved in or used in the commission of the criminal offense; and
- 2. Any and all other property involving any visual depiction described in section 2251, 2251A, or 2252, 2252A, 2252B, or 2260.

A TRUE BILL.

FOREPERSON OF THE GRAND JUNY

ASHLEY C. HOFF

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

BY:

ssistant U.S. Attorney

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Case 5:21-cr-50014-TLB Document 1 Filed 04/28/21 Page 1 of 4 PSONSTRUCT COURT WESTERN DIST ARKANSAS FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
FAYETTEVILLE DIVISION

APR 28 2021

By

Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)	Case No. 5:21-CR-500 <u>14</u> -001
v.))))	18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2) 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(b)(1) 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B) 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(b)(2)
JOSHUA JAMES DUGGAR)))	

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury Charges:

COUNT ONE

(Receipt of Child Pornography)

Between on or about May 14, 2019, and on or about May 16, 2019, in the Western District of Arkansas, Fayetteville Division, the Defendant, **JOSHUA JAMES DUGGAR**, knowingly received child pornography, as that term is defined by 18 United States Code Section 2256(8)(B), 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 computer, and attempted to do so.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(2) and (b)(1).

COUNT TWO

(Possession of Child Pornography)

Between on or about May 14, 2019, and on or about May 16, 2019, in the Western District

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of Arkansas, Fayetteville Division, the Defendant, **JOSHUA JAMES DUGGAR**, knowingly possessed material that contained images of child pornography, as that term is defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 2256(8)(B), including images of minors under the age of 12, that had been mailed, and shipped and transported using any means and facility of interstate and foreign commerce and in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, and that was produced using materials that had been mailed, and shipped and transported in and affecting interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by computer, and attempted to do so.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252A(a)(5)(B) and (b)(2).

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

The Grand Jury re-alleges and incorporates by reference herein all Counts of this Indictment.

Upon conviction of any Count of this Indictment, the defendant shall forfeit to the United States pursuant to 18 United States Code, Section 2253 the defendant's interest in:

- any visual depiction described in 18 United States Code, Sections 2251, 2251A, or 2252,
 2252A, 2252B, or 2260, or any book, magazine, periodical, film, videotape, or other matter, which contains any such visual depiction, which was produced, transported, mailed, shipped or received in violation of the offenses in the Indictment;
- 2. any property, real or personal, constituting or traceable to gross profits or other proceeds obtained from the offenses in the Indictment; and
- 3. any property, real or personal, **including any and all computer equipment**, used or intended to be used to commit or to promote the commission of the offenses in the

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Indictment, or any property traceable to such property, including, but not limited to

computer equipment used in the commission of the offenses in the Indictment.

If any of the property subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants:

a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;

c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;

d. has been substantially diminished in value; or

e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without

difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 18 United States Code, Section 2253(b),

incorporating by reference Title 21 United States Code, Section 853 to seek forfeiture of any other

property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

A True Bill.

/s/Grand Jury Foreperson
Foreperson

DAVID CLAY FOWLKES

ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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