



# Department of Justice

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**ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DHS SECRETARY ANNOUNCE LARGEST U.S. PROSECUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL NETWORK ORGANIZED TO SEXUALLY EXPLOIT CHILDREN; TWO LOCAL MEN ARRESTED**

*Members of Online Child Pornography Community Arrested on Five Continents*

BUFFALO, N.Y. – Earlier today, Attorney General Eric Holder and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced today the unsealing of three indictments and one complaint charging a total of 72 individuals for their participation in an international criminal network dedicated to the sexual abuse of children and the creation and dissemination of graphic images and videos of child sexual abuse throughout the world.

Two of the defendants were arrested in the Western District of New York. Christopher Luke, 31, of School St. in Kenmore, N.Y., was arrested on March 30, 2011 and appeared before Magistrate Judge Hugh B. Scott in Buffalo, N.Y. Todd Stumpf, 59, of Fillmore Ave. in Buffalo, N.Y., was arrested on July 14, 2011 and appeared before Magistrate Judge H. Kenneth Schroeder, Jr. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Fauzia K Mattingly, who handled the case locally, both defendants were detained and transferred to the Western District of Louisiana in Shreveport for further prosecution.

“The members of this criminal network shared a demented dream to create the preeminent online community for the promotion of child sexual exploitation but for the children they victimized, this was nothing short of a nightmare,” said Attorney General Holder. “This operation marks another important step forward in our work to protect children across - and beyond - this country. Our nation’s fight to protect the rights, interests, and safety of children goes on, and it will continue to be a top priority of this Justice Department.”

"I echo the sentiments of Attorney General Holder," said U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. "This is a horrific crime that can ruin the lives of children and devastate families. Our Office will continue to vigorously work with our law enforcement partners at every level to protect and defend the most vulnerable in our society and bring these predators to justice."

Operation Delego, an ongoing investigation that was launched in December 2009, targeted the 72 charged defendants and more than 500 additional individuals around the world for their participation in Dreamboard – a private, members-only, online bulletin board that was created and operated to promote pedophilia and encourage the sexual abuse of very young children, in an environment designed to avoid law enforcement detection. To date, 52 of the 72 charged defendants have been arrested in the United States and abroad. Members traded graphic images and videos of adults molesting children 12 years-old and under, often violently, and collectively created a massive private library of images of child sexual abuse. The international group prized and encouraged the creation of new images and videos of child sexual abuse – numerous Dreamboard members sexually abused children, produced images and videos of the abuse, and shared the images and videos with other members of Dreamboard. Operation Delego represents the largest prosecution to date in the United States of individuals who participated in an online bulletin board conceived and operated for the sole purpose of promoting child sexual abuse, disseminating child pornography and evading law enforcement.

All 72 of the defendants are charged with conspiring to advertise and distribute child pornography, and 50 of them are also charged with engaging in a child pornography enterprise. The charges and arrests were conducted in three separate phases over the course of the operation. Twenty-eight defendants were charged and 19 were arrested during phase one of the operation; 22 defendants were charged and 17 were arrested during phase two of the operation; and 22 defendants were charged and 16 arrested during phase three of the operation.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), 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 to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafefchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov).

An indictment is merely an allegation and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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