



U.S. Department of Justice

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**For Immediate Release:
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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Oliver Buelow

**ROCHESTER HILLS MAN SENTENCED TO NEARLY 12 YEARS FOR CHILD
PORNOGRAPHY, TRIP TO COSTA RICA FOR SEX WITH MINOR**

A 38-year-old Rochester Hills man was sentenced to 140 months imprisonment in federal court today, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Joining in the announcement was Joseph Parone, Inspector in Charge, Detroit Division, United States Postal Inspection Service, and Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Detroit.

Oliver Buelow pleaded guilty on November 13, 2007 before Judge Julian A. Cook, Jr. to felony counts of mailing child pornography and attempted travel to engage in an illicit sex act. In March 2007, Buelow booked a trip to Costa Rica and paid a tour company to arrange sex with a 14 -15 year old girl. Buelow also solicited photographs of minors between the ages of 10 -11 years-old from the tour company for additional sex acts. The tour company with whom Buelow believed he was communicating was, in reality, an undercover FBI agent. Buelow was arrested on March 15, 2007 during a layover in Atlanta after boarding a plane for Costa Rica at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Separately, Buelow communicated with an undercover Postal Inspector by e-mail. On February 13, 2007, Buelow ordered five child pornography DVDs. In payment, he sent \$50 and a DVD from his collection containing three child pornography movies. A search of Buelow's home by federal agents on March 20, 2007 revealed an additional 28 images of child pornography on his computer.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "In one month, this defendant ordered child porn, traded child porn, and boarded a plane bound for Costa Rica with the goal of sexually abusing children there. This kind of conduct illustrates the tight connection between the child pornography trade and criminal intent to abuse real children. It is a text book example of why prosecuting child pornography means protecting children."

Buelow is a German citizen on temporary assignment for his employer in the Detroit metropolitan area. Following his term of imprisonment, Buelow will be deported to Germany.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States 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 case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Leonid Feller.