

U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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March 20, 2008

EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Robert C. Daniels et al

FIVE CHARGED WITH INTERSTATE SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS

Defendants Alleged To Have Used craigslist, Other Websites To Advertise Child Prostitutes

Five defendants were charged in federal district court today with sex trafficking of minors, manufacturing child pornography, and other offenses arising from interstate prostitution networks based in Detroit, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Detroit.

Robert C. Daniels, a/k/a "Motor City Mink," 28, of Detroit, and Dennis Paige, a/k/a "Detroit Slim", of Novi, are alleged to be the leaders of separate but related interstate prostitution networks. Stephanie Head, 22, of Detroit, is described as Daniels' "bottom," the highest ranking prostitute working for Daniels and is accused of soliciting and training minors to engage in prostitution, as well as photographing them engaged in sexually explicit conduct and posting digital solicitations on the internet. Sarah Dutton and Hortense Canty, of Novi, are alleged to have served similar roles for Paige.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "The United States Attorney's Office is committed to making defendants answer for crimes that exploit and abuse young women. The offenses

charged in today's complaints are not victimless crimes and we will work tirelessly to ensure that those who use the Internet to facilitate the sexual exploitation of children will be brought to justice."

Special Agent in Charge Arena said, "The FBI and our law enforcement partners remain dedicated, and will not tire in our efforts to protect children from exploitation by these criminal groups."

The defendants are alleged to have posted over 2,800 advertisements on craigslist.org beginning on January 10, 2006. Solicitations for prostitution were posted for Houston, Texas, Chicago, Illinois, Detroit, Michigan, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Cleveland, Ohio, Washington, D.C., College Park, Maryland and New York City, New York. Other websites alleged to have been used to advertise and solicit child and adult prostitutes include myspace.com, cityvibe.com, blackplanet.com, and eros.com.

According to a criminal complaint filed in federal court, the FBI's continuing investigation had identified nine minors and over 80 adults who have been advertised as prostitutes on the internet by Head and Daniels. In addition to working out-of-state, the pair is alleged to have rented rooms at a Red Roof Inn and a Motel Six in Southfield for prostitution.

Head and Daniels are charged with conspiracy, sex trafficking of children, interstate transportation in aid of racketeering, sexual exploitation of children, and transportation for purposes of prostitution. Paige, Dutton, and Canty are charged with sex trafficking of children, transporting a minor for purposes of prostitution, and transportation for purposes of prostitution. The most serious charges carry a mandatory minimum of 15 years in custody and up to life imprisonment.

All five defendants made initial appearances in federal district court today and were temporarily detained. Detention hearings are scheduled for Friday, March 20.

A criminal complaint is a charging document and not evidence of guilt. Each and every defendant is presumed to be innocent.

Mr. Murphy commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Michigan State Police and the Detroit Police Department for their work on this investigation.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John N. O'Brien II, Leonid Feller, and Eaton Curtis.