



# Department of Justice

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**61-YEAR-OLD CANADIAN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING TO  
ENTICE A CHILD OVER THE INTERNET AND TRAVELING TO GEORGIA  
TO HAVE SEX WITH A 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL**

***FBI Seeks Information on Possible Maryland Area Victim(s)***

Atlanta, GA - JOSEPH JOHN PALASSIO, 61, of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, pleaded guilty today in United States District Court to charges of using the internet to attempt to entice a child to engage in sexual activity and traveling across state lines with the intent to engage in sexual activity with a 10-year-old girl.

“This defendant was so determined to have sex with a child that he drove all the way from Canada to Georgia,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “This case shows once again how important it is to investigate, prosecute, and lock up internet predators.”

Gregory Jones, Special Agent in Charge, Atlanta Field Office FBI, said it has reason to believe PALASSIO stopped in Maryland and victimized another young girl. “Child predator cases always leave law enforcement officials with the concern that we’ve done everything possible to identify all victims that have come into contact with these individuals,” Jones said. “It is for this reason that we take the extraordinary steps of asking that anyone who has victim related information regarding this individual please contact authorities immediately.”

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: In March of 2006, PALASSIO contacted an undercover agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation through an internet chat room. During the course of several conversations on the phone and over the internet, the defendant expressed his desire to travel to Georgia from Canada to engage in sexual activity with a 10-year-old girl. PALASSIO said that he had engaged in similar conduct in the past and that he would be traveling to Maryland before Georgia to meet a mother and 11-year-old girl there to engage in sexual activity with them. Just four days after making contact with the undercover agent, PALASSIO arrived in Georgia for what he thought would be a sexual

encounter with a child. There was no actual child in Georgia. PALASSIO was arrested by law enforcement officers just after arriving in Georgia.

PALASSIO did stop in Salisbury, Maryland on March 12, 2006, and is believed to be in that area for at least 2 days. The FBI is seeking to determine if a child victim may exist in Maryland. For that reason, a photograph of PALASSIO is being released by the FBI. Anyone with information about PALASSIO's contact with children in Maryland is asked to contact the FBI in Atlanta at 404-679-9000 or your local police.

This case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Francey Hakes prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Yonette Buchanan, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).