



Department of Justice

**Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney
Southern District of Indiana**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, January 23, 2009
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ins/>

CONTACT: MARY BIPPUS
(317) 229-2403
Fax: (317) 226-5002
Cell: (317) 590-7928

INDIANAPOLIS RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 17 ½ YEARS FOR DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that RUBEN AUGER MARCHAND, 58, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 210 months imprisonment late yesterday by U.S. District Judge William T. Lawrence following his guilty plea to distributing child pornography. This case was the result of a investigation by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) (Seattle, Washington, Omaha, Nebraska, and Indianapolis, Indiana) and the Indiana State Police. 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.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Seattle Washington, doing a proactive investigation, discovered that two people were trading child pornography in January 2007. Their investigation determined that one individual was in Omaha, Nebraska. The other was AUGER MARCHAND in Indianapolis, Indiana. A search warrant was done on January 11, 2007, on AUGER MARCHAND's residence in Indianapolis, Indiana. Law enforcement officers from ICE and the Indiana State Police seized 9 hard drives, 2 thumb drives and approximately 500 compact disks. The forensic examination showed AUGER MARCHAND possessed over 500,000 images of child pornography and child erotica, some including bondage and violence against the children, and some showing adults engaging in sex acts with the children. The forensic examination also discovered chat logs between AUGER MARCHAND and the Omaha, Nebraska individual indicating they exchanged hundreds of explicit pictures of children.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Lawrence also imposed lifetime years supervised release following AUGER MARCHAND's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, AUGER MARCHAND must not ever have contact with a minor child without permission and must register as a sex offender. AUGER MARCHAND was fined in the amount of \$5,000. AUGER MARCHAND was taken into custody following the sentencing hearing.

###

20090123.Marchand.ce.wpd