



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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CHILD SEX TRAFFICKER FOUND GUILTY

PHOENIX - Hanoi Barbaro Acosta, 30, of Portland, Ore., was found guilty of Transportation of Minor for Prostitution by a federal jury today. Acosta transported his 16-year-old victim and three adult females throughout various states so that they could work for him as prostitutes.

The evidence during the trial showed that from June 28 through July 3, 2007, Acosta transported the juvenile and the women from Portland to Las Vegas and Mesa, Ariz. so that they could work for him as prostitutes. He forced the 16-year-old girl to engage in prostitution through death threats and a severe beating in Inglewood, Calif. Officers from the Mesa Police Department rescued the victim after she called her mother pleading for help. Acosta was arrested that night by the Mesa Police Department but because the travel involved multiple states, the FBI then took over the investigation.

The case was tried before United States District Court Judge Roslyn O. Silver on May 13-15 and 20-22, 2008. Sentencing is set before Judge Silver on August 11, 2008. A conviction for Transportation of a Minor for Prostitution carries a minimum penalty of 10 years in prison up to a maximum penalty of life in prison. The judge can also impose up to a \$250,000 fine. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Silver will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Mesa Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Tracey A. Bardorf and Steven P. Logan, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-871-PHX-ROS
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