



# Department of Justice

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## **HARDMAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Atlanta, GA - JOSHUA AARON HARDMAN, 24, of Acworth, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr. on a charge of possession of child pornography.

“Not only has the Internet substantially increased the proliferation of child pornography, but such crimes often cross international borders,” said United States Attorney David E. Nahmias. “This prosecution was the result of successful cooperation among the Saskatoon, Canada, Police Department; the Acworth, Georgia, Police Department; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such law enforcement cooperation is vital to put the consumers of child pornography behind bars.”

HARDMAN was sentenced to 10 years in prison to be followed by supervised release for the rest of his life. HARDMAN pleaded guilty to the charges on February 1, 2006.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: HARDMAN began communicating over the Internet in late 2004 with a person he believed to be an 11-year-old girl. In reality, the person was a Canadian police officer acting in an undercover capacity. HARDMAN engaged in sexually explicit e-mail communications with her and sent her two e-mails containing images of child pornography. The Canadian police then contacted US law enforcement, and on January 19, 2005, Acworth police officers executed a search at HARDMAN’s residence. The police recovered a computer containing hundreds of images of child pornography along with a box containing girl’s undergarments.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Acworth, Georgia, Police Department.

Assistant United States Attorney Aaron M. Danzig prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or F. Gentry Shelnett, Chief, Criminal Division, 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/).