



Department of Justice

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CANADIAN MAN SENTENCED FOR TRAVELING TO GEORGIA TO HAVE SEX WITH A 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL

Atlanta, GA - JOSEPH JOHN PALASSIO, 65, of Kingston, Ontario, Canada, was sentenced today by United States District Judge J. Owen Forrester on 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.

PALASSIO was sentenced to 13 years in prison to be followed by 5 years of supervised release. PALASSIO was convicted of these charges on August 9, 2006.

“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, again, how important it is to vigorously investigate and prosecute internet predators.”

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: In March 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.

This case was 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 Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, 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.