



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Elizabeth M. Martinez
Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney
Public Affairs Officer
elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov
505.224.1469

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**LAS CRUCES BASKETBALL COACH ARRESTED ON
FEDERAL CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

LAS CRUCES – Erik Khan, 32, of Las Cruces, N.M., was arrested earlier today on a criminal complaint charging him with distribution, receipt and possession of child pornography. Khan, who has been employed as a basketball coach at a Las Cruces middle school, will make his initial appearance in federal court in Las Cruces at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

According to the criminal complaint, Khan allegedly distributed, received and possessed child pornography from Sept. 9, 2011 through May 7, 2012, in Doña Ana County, N.M. If convicted of either distribution or receipt of child pornography, Khan faces not less than five years nor more than 20 years of imprisonment. If convicted of possession of child pornography, Khan faces up to ten years of imprisonment.

The criminal complaint alleges that the Las Cruces Police Department initiated an investigation in Sept. 2011, which led to Khan's arrest, when it began to monitor a specific Internet Protocol (IP) address that appeared to be used to distribute, receive and possess child pornography. The investigation revealed that the IP address had been issued to Comcast. The Comcast account that had used the IP address when the child pornography was distributed and received, contained a street address in Las Cruces, New Mexico. According to the complaint, on May 9, 2012, when officers knocked on the door at that address, Khan answered and identified himself as the sole resident. The officers executed a state district court search warrant at the residence and seized external hard drives in Khan's bedroom that allegedly contained hundreds of images and videos of child pornography.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the case against Kahn was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations and the Las Cruces Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ravi Sinha as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and DOJ's Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, 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.projectsafchildhood.gov.

The investigation also received support from the New Mexico Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, whose mission is to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers in New Mexico. There are 64 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies associated with the ICAC Task Force, which is funded by a grant administered by the New Mexico Attorney General's Office. Anyone with information relating to suspected child predators and suspected child abuse is encouraged to contact federal or local law enforcement.

A criminal complaint is only an accusation. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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