



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

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Ellendale Man Pleads Guilty to Receipt of Child Pornography

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that on June 11, 2008, **Faun Durni** of Ellendale, North Dakota, pleaded guilty before United States District Court Judge Rodney S. Webb to a charge of receipt of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors.

Durni, 53, pleaded guilty to knowingly receiving numerous visual depictions which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce by means of a computer via the internet, the production of which involved the use of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

On October 4, 2007, the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) obtained and executed a search warrant for **Durni's** residence and electronic media at 301 North Railroad Avenue in Ellendale, ND. The search revealed several computers and multiple compact discs. After BCI agents conducted a preliminary search of Durni's computer, multiple images of child pornography were discovered. Following the execution of the search warrant, the electronic evidence was forensically examined by the

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BCI. The examination revealed more than 102 video files and 56 image files depicting children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The incidents occurred from May through October of 2007, in the District of North Dakota.

The charge of receipt of materials involving the sexual exploitation of minors carries a statutory maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment with a minimum mandatory penalty of five years' imprisonment. The case was investigated by the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

Sentencing for **Durni** has been scheduled for Thursday, August 28, 2008, in United States District Court in Fargo, North Dakota, at 10:00 a.m.

This case is being prosecuted as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices, 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.projectsafechildhood.gov.

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