

Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 15, 2008
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FANTI CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BUFFALO, N.Y. — ANTHONY PASQUALE FANTI, JR., 33, of Buffalo, New York, was charged today in a criminal complaint with possession of materials that contained images of child pornography that had been transported in interstate and foreign commerce by computer, announced U.S. Attorney Terrance P. Flynn of the Western District of New York. The charges carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles B. Wydysh stated that the complaint charges the defendant with possessing child pornography. On February 16, 2007, members of the Cyber Task Force, Innocent National Initiative, including Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Investigators of the Buffalo Police Department, executed a search of the defendant's residence in Buffalo, New York. As part of the search, agents seized Fanti's computer. A subsequent search of the computer disclosed the presence of numerous images and videos depicting child pornography.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. 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 identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

The complaint was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Laurie Bennett, Special Agent in Charge, with assistance from the Buffalo Police

Department, under the direction of H. McCarthy Gipson, Commissioner. Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles B. Wydysh will handle the trial of the case.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.