



UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

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POSTAL INSPECTORS UNCOVER INTERNATIONAL CHILD EXPLOITATION CONSPIRACY

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service announced today the sentencing and unsealing of documents related to the conviction of two men and the arrest of two others who conspired to sexually exploit a minor and produce child pornography. The minor's legal parents transported the child to three continents, including the United States, and sexually exploited the child multiple times.

In the Southern District of Indiana, it was revealed that Mark J. Newton, an American citizen residing in Australia, and Peter Truong, an Australian citizen also residing in Australia orchestrated the abuse of the minor which they were legal parents of. Documents related to the arrest of John R. Powell, a Florida attorney, and Jason Bettuo, a Michigan youth tennis instructor, were also unsealed during court proceedings today.

"We are exposing one of the most heinous crimes in society: transporting a child around the world for the sole purpose of sexual exploitation," stated Deputy Chief Postal Inspector Shawn Tiller.

The Postal Inspection Service led a two-year investigation of suspects who sexually exploited children using the U.S. Mail and the Internet. The case began when Postal Inspectors identified individuals who were trafficking in child exploitation material. They identified Newton and Truong as the legal parents of the five- to six-year old child they were sexually exploiting.

The investigation revealed that in 2010 and 2011, Newton and Truong traveled with their child to the United States and other countries to meet with other men, allegedly including Powell and Bettuo. During the visits Powell and Bettuo were said to have used high-definition digital cameras to record the abuse.

One recording purportedly took place during a September 2010 meeting with Powell, in which Newton and Truong allowed him to engage in sexual activity with the minor and produce child pornography. In April 2011, Newton and Truong took the minor to San Francisco, CA, where Powell and Bettuo allegedly engaged in sexual conduct with the child and again produced child pornography.

Postal Inspectors also alleged that Newton and Truong invited Powell to travel to Australia and France to meet with them and the minor for sexual activity and to record the abuse. Powell is said to have transported the recording to the United States.

The Postal Inspection Service was assisted in this international investigation by the Office of Central pour la Repression des Violences aux Personnes of the French National Police and the Toronto Police Service. The Inspection Service also received a great deal of assistance and cooperation from Task Force Argos of the Queensland Police Service in Australia.

Deputy Chief Inspector Shawn Tiller stated “We would like to thank our international partners for the tireless dedication and effort in bringing these criminals to justice.”

The Postal Inspection Service partners with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Department of Justice’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and the 93 U.S. Attorney’s Offices across the United States to investigate child sexual exploitation involving the U.S. Mail.

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