



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Columbia Man Arrested In Internet Predator Sting

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Siddharth “Sid” Darshan Danak, 21, 1 East Lake Court, in Columbia, was arrested on June 19, 2006, in an undercover sting conducted by the City of Westminster Police Department.

The Westminster Police Department is a partner in the Attorney General’s Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Danak was arrested on charges of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§ 16-15-342), a felony offense punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment and Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct With a Minor (§ 16-3-655(B)), a felony offense punishable to twenty (20) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that Danak began soliciting sex at approximately 12:40 a.m. on June 19, 2006, from a person he believed to be a fourteen (14) year old girl. In reality, he was seeking sex from a Westminster Police Officer. Danak further arranged to meet the “girl” for sex at a predetermined location in Westminster the same morning. He was arrested upon his arrival at that location at approximately 4:50 a.m.

Westminster police seized a laptop computer at the time of the arrest.

Danak has been a citizen of the United States for approximately one (1) month, and is a native of India. Danak is a student at the University of South Carolina.

A bond hearing was held today at the Oconee County Detention Center. Danak was denied bond, and remains in custody at the Oconee County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Office.

McMaster stressed that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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