



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## **Mexican Man Arrested On Child Pornography Charges**

**Columbia, S.C.** – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Juan Antonio Velazquez-Ramirez, 24, a Mexican citizen residing at 3900 Clement Road in Columbia, was arrested on August 24, 2006, by agents of the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for child pornography.

SLED is a member of the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Velazquez-Ramirez was charged with one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor - Second Degree, a felony violation of §16-15-405, and punishable to between two (2) and ten (10) years imprisonment. Velazquez-Ramirez was also charged with one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor - Third Degree, a felony violation of §16-15-410, punishable to ten (10) years imprisonment.

Arrest warrants allege that on June 14, 2006, Velazquez-Ramirez distributed images of children engaged in sexual activity using an online computer network. The network was designed to allow files to be shared among various users on the Internet. An undercover SLED agent working online downloaded files from the network, and verified them as child pornography. A search warrant executed at Velazquez-Ramirez's residence on August 24, 2006, revealed that he was the source of the images.

A bond hearing was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. today at the Richland 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 court of law.

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