



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL HENRY McMASTER
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Spartanburg Sheriff Arrests Easley Man In Internet Sex Predator Sting

Columbia, S.C. – Attorney General Henry McMaster announced today that Ranjit Gohil, 51, of 1220 Old Mill Road in Easley, was arrested on May 17, 2006, in an undercover Internet predator sting by the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office.

The Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office is a partner in the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

Gohil 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 Gohil began soliciting sex on May 1, 2006, from a person he believed to be a twelve (12) year old girl. In reality, he was seeking sex from a Spartanburg County Sheriff's Deputy. Gohil further arranged to meet the "girl" for sex at an arranged location in Spartanburg on May 17. He was arrested upon his arrival at that location.

A search warrant was executed at Gohil's residence by the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, and resulted in the seizure of a laptop computer, a desktop computer, and a notebook containing various screen names.

A 1:30 p.m. bond hearing is set for Gohil at the Spartanburg 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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