

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Attorney General Balderas Announces Results of National Effort to Lock Up Child Predators

Operation Broken Heart III was a two-month-long coordinated statewide law enforcement sweep

Albuquerque, NM – This morning, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced that Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task forces around the country, including the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General ICAC Task Force, launched a two month operation in April called Operation Broken Heart III. The operation was a coordinated effort by law enforcement representing more than 3,000 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies with the purpose of arresting as many child predators as possible and providing as much cyber safety education and outreach as possible to children, parents and educators throughout New Mexico.

“The Office of the Attorney General and our over 90 law enforcement ICAC task force members around New Mexico have no higher priority than protecting our state’s most innocent and vulnerable citizens – our children,” said Attorney General Balderas. “I want to thank law enforcement agencies from San Juan to Lea Counties, from Albuquerque to Alamogordo, from Santa Fe to Silver City, for their participation in this successful operation to protect our children from horrendous predators.”

During Operation Broken Heart III, the New Mexico ICAC Task Force conducted 63 search warrants, made 21 arrests/served arrest warrants, presented 156 cyber safety trainings reaching over 5,400 attendees, and conducted three public safety events impacting over 8,770 attendees across New Mexico.

The New Mexico ICAC Task Force’s operation concentrated on offenders who: (1) possess, manufacture, and distribute child pornography; (2) engage in online enticement of children for sexual purposes; (3) engage in the commercial sexual exploitation of children (commonly referred to as child prostitution), and (4) engage in child sex tourism (traveling abroad for the purpose of sexually abusing foreign children).

All participating ICAC task forces in the United States will compile arrest statistics from the two-month-long Operation Broken Heart III and share them with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in Washington, D.C.

Attorney General Balderas is committed to protecting children from cyber predators through his ICAC Unit and the New Mexico ICAC Task Force, which is a multi-agency network of law enforcement personnel statewide whose mission is to locate, track, and capture Internet child sexual predators and Internet child pornographers. The Office of the Attorney General ICAC Unit has a fully equipped computer lab specifically designed to provide forensic analysis to law enforcement agencies working ICAC cases and special criminal investigations serving all of New Mexico’s 33 counties.

To report suspected child exploitation please contact the Office of the Attorney General toll free at 1-866-627-3249 or the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678) or www.missingkids.com.

Please see attached for arrest information.

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Arrested	Charge	Date	Location	Law Enforcement Agency
Alec Budd	Extortion & Distribution	April 1 st	San Juan	San Juan County Sheriff's Office
Shelton Charlie	Child Solicitation by Electronic Communication Device & Meets Child	April 5 th	San Juan	San Juan County Sheriff's Office
Casper Cly	Child Solicitation by Electronic Communication Device & Meets Child X 2	April 7 th	San Juan County	San Juan County Sheriff's Office
Casey Odell	Distribution	April 17 th	Arrested in Texas	Department of Homeland Security (ABQ Office)
Gaetano Brown	Distribution & Possession	April 20 th	Albuquerque	Albuquerque Police Department
Lawrence Sedillo	Possession & Tampering With Evidence	April 22 nd	Santa Fe County	Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office/ Office of the NM Attorney General
Miguel Teran	Child Solicitation by Electronic Communication Device & Criminal Sexual Contact of a Minor	April 23 nd	San Juan County	San Juan County Sheriff's Office
Alexander Balding	Manufacturing, Distribution & Possession	April 27 th	Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office/ Office NM Attorney General
Jose Velazquez	Distribution & Possession	May 3 rd	Santa Fe County	Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office/ Office of the NM Attorney General
NOT RELEASED	Distribution & Possession	May 5 th	Rio Rancho	US Postal Inspectors/ Office of the NM Attorney General /Rio Rancho Police

Arrested	Charge	Date	Location	Law Enforcement Agency
Mervin Yazzie	Voyuerism X 2 & Tampering With Evidence X 2	May 3rd	San Juan County	San Juan County Sheriff's Office
Jared Stevenson	Distribution & Possession	May 16th	Rio Rancho	Office of the NM Attorney General
Michael William Wallace	Distribution & Possession	May 17 th	Alamogordo	Alamogordo Police Department
Donald Qualls	Distribution & Possession	May 18 th	Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office
Daniel Stokes	Distribution & Possession	May 18th	Silver City	Office of the NM Attorney General
Gerek Wilderson	Criminal Sexual Contact of a Minor X 5	May 23rd	San Juan County	San Juan County Sheriff's Office
Jason Justice	Distribution & Possession	May 23 rd	San Juan County	San Juan County Sheriff's Office
Rodolfo Ferreyra	Distribution & Possession	May 24th	Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office /Office of the NM Attorney General
Brad Nelson	Distribution & Possession	May 25 th	Hobbs	Hobbs Police Department
Joe Chavez	Distribution, Possession & Tampering With Evidence	May 26th	Grant County	Office of the NM Attorney General
Xayarath Keneth Soudaly	Distribution & Possession	May 31st	Bernalillo County	Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office