



Department of Justice

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Western District of Texas

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KILLEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE SENTENCED TO 60 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION CHARGES

Husband's Brother Sentenced to 20 Years in Federal Prison for Receipt of Child Pornography

In Waco this morning, 27-year-old Christopher Almaguer and his wife, 27-year-old Sarah Rashelle Almaguer, of Killeen were each sentenced to 60 years in federal prison for sexually assaulting children and producing child pornography, announced U.S. Attorney John F. Bash, U.S. Secret Service Special Agent in Charge William Noonan, Dallas Field Office, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Killeen Police Chief Charles F. Kimble.

In addition to the prison terms, United States District Judge Alan D Albright ordered each defendant to pay \$10,000 to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Fund and be placed on supervised release for the remainder of their lives after completing their respective prison terms.

On October 30, 2018, the defendants pleaded guilty to one count of sexual exploitation of children and one count of production of child pornography. By pleading guilty, the Almaguers admitted that in December 2017 they uploaded sexually explicit videos of themselves sexually assaulting children as young as eight months old. According to court records investigators compiled a list of approximately 25 potential minor child victims, ranging in age from infants to fourteen years of age, from the Central Texas area.

"To me this is the most significant case we've prosecuted since I became U.S. Attorney," stated U.S. Attorney Bash. "The Almaguers were serial child abusers. They abused 25 children that we know about—children from the neighborhood, children from church, children they babysat. The youngest victim was an infant. And the nature of the abuse was unimaginable. They also made videos of the children's torture and shared them. These are two of the most wicked criminals in Texas history."

"The sentencing in this child exploitation case emphasizes the commitment of the Secret Service to remove predators from our communities," said William Noonan, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service Dallas Field Office. "The Secret Service will continue to work closely with our network of law enforcement partners to bring those who commit crimes against children to justice."

This morning, Judge Albright also sentenced Christopher Almaguer's brother, 25-year-old Paul Perez, Jr. of Killeen, to 20 years in federal prison followed by a lifetime of supervised release. Judge Albright also ordered Perez to pay \$10,000 to the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Fund. On September 25, 2018, Perez pleaded guilty to two counts of receipt of child pornography. Perez admitted to receiving images and videos from the Almaguers which depicted the sexual abuse of children.

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“My office does all it can to protect Texans, and I am proud of the difficult work that my Child Exploitation Unit and the U.S. Department of Justice undertakes in order to keep our children safe from dangerous predators,” Attorney General Paxton said. “The detestable people who perpetuate such horrific crimes against children must be held accountable for their actions.”

The Almaguers and Perez have remained in custody since their arrests by investigators with the Texas Office of Attorney General, Child Exploitation Unit, and special agents with the U.S. Secret Service in February and March 2018, respectively.

This case was investigated by the Texas Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Investigations Division, Child Exploitation Unit; the U.S. Secret Service; Killeen Police Department; and, the Temple Police Department. This investigation was initiated in February 2018 when Facebook.com provided a Cybertip to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reporting a user was uploading suspected images and videos depicting child pornography. Without the indispensable assistance of Facebook and NCMEC, this case would not have been brought to the attention of law enforcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory S. Gloff prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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