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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 19, 2010 http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/ CONTACT: Tracy Dorsey Chapman 800-659-8726*(304)345-2200 Tracy.Chapman@usdoj.gov

MERCER COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON

Forfeits Home and Car

BECKLEY, W. Va. – Wolfgang Karl Gottfried Werner Huber, 64, of Bluefield, West Virginia, was sentenced yesterday by United States District Judge Irene C. Berger to 50 months in prison and ordered to pay a \$4,000 fine for possessing child pornography. Huber previously pleaded guilty to the charge in July.

The conviction stems from an investigation conducted by the West Virginia State Police. The investigation revealed that prior to October 6, 2009, while in Florida and using his computer, Huber downloaded from the internet images and videos depicting minors engaged in the lascivious exhibition of the minors' genitalia and pubic area. Some of the children depicted in these videos and images were under the age of 12 years. Around October 6, 2009, Huber drove his 2010 Chevrolet Camaro from Florida to his home in West Virginia. Huber brought his computers containing child pornography with him to West Virginia.

From his home in Bluefield, West Virginia, on October 12, 2009, Huber distributed what he knew to be child pornography to his neighbor. This transaction was captured using an audio and video recording device. On October 13, 2009, a search warrant was executed at Huber's residence where officers recovered several computers, hard drives and other digital storage media. A forensic examination of these items revealed over 600 images and videos of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Several of the videos were created outside of the United States.

As part of his plea agreement, Huber agreed to forfeit his home in Bluefield where he collected and distributed child pornography, as well as his 2010 Chevrolet Camaro which he used to transport child pornography from Florida to West Virginia.

The West Virginia State Police, Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force conducted the investigation. The Southern Regional Drug and Violent Crime Task Force assisted with the search. Assistant United States Attorney Lisa G. Johnston handled the prosecution.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, the Department of Justice created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about cases and related activities please visit <u>www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs</u> and <u>www.projectsafechildhood.gov/</u>.