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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DAVIS MAN CONVICTED BY JURY IN “SEXTORTION” CASE

(Woodland, CA) - August 30, 2010 - On August 27, 2010, a Yolo County jury convicted Michael Hien Artz, 20, of Davis, of oral copulation with a 16 year-old girl and later communicating with this same 16 year-old girl via Facebook and the telephone with the purpose of forcing her to have sex with him, an act that has come to be known by law enforcement as “sextortion.”

In August 2008, Artz invited the 16 year-old girl to a “party” at his house. When she arrived at his house, no one else was at this “party.” Artz made the 16 year-old girl orally copulate him and he took photographs and video during the incident. Nine months later, around May 18, 2009, Artz initiated contact with the girl through Facebook, a social networking website. When he contacted the 16 year-old girl, he threatened to expose a secret if she did not agree to have sex with him or orally copulate him again. Over the next few days, Artz telephoned the girl at least twenty times and sent her numerous text messages continuing to threaten the girl, and stated he would blackmail the girl by posting photographs and video of the oral copulation from August 2008 on the Internet or at her school if the girl did not agree to have sex with him and orally copulate him again. On May 21, 2009, the girl reported the sextortion and the August 2008 oral copulation to the Davis Police Department.

Davis Police Department Detective Jeff Beasely was the lead investigator on this case for the department. Detective Beasely had the girl return Artz’ telephone calls while he was present to tape the conversation. During two taped telephone conversations, Artz repeatedly told the girl he had photographs and video of the oral copulation from August 2008, and demanded that if she did not meet him to have sex with him and orally copulate him, he would post the photographs and video on the Internet and at her school. When the girl told Artz that she did not participate willingly in the August 2008 oral copulation, Artz told her, “That’s alright,” and that he “did not care.” The girl also asked

Artz if there was any other way she could get the photographs and video back. Artz told her, "I can't think of any." He also told the girl, "Hate me all you want. Until I go off to college, you're mine."

After the telephone calls, the Davis Police Department had the girl arrange for Artz to come to her house in Davis with the photographs and video so they could obtain the photographs and video he claimed he had. Once Artz turned his car on the girl's street, the Davis Police Department pulled Artz over and arrested him. They found condoms, sexual lubricant, a camera, and a computer thumb drive on him when he was arrested.

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig commended the efforts of the Davis Police Department, specifically lead Detective Jeff Beasely, and also Yolo County Deputy District Attorney Tiffany Susz for their hard work in investigating and presenting this difficult case to the jury.

Sextortion cases are on the rise nationwide. District Attorney Reisig said: "Unfortunately, some advances in technology have also created new ways for sexual predators to target and take advantage of our children. Cases such as this demonstrate the depravity of certain new age criminals and also the increasing need for families to educate themselves about the real risks to children using the Internet, texting and other modern communication methods."

Artz faces a maximum sentence of 4 years 8 months in state prison. The Honorable Stephen L. Mock will sentence Artz on October 15, 2010.

For more information, contact Chief Deputy District Attorney Jonathan Raven at 530-666-8180.

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