

United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner Eastern District of California

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TWO ARRESTED IN DAVIS PARK FACE FEDERAL CHARGES FOR CHILD EXPLOITATION

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Two federal criminal complaints were unsealed today that charge Nicholas Robert Bowen, 62, of Grizzly Flat, and Wenyi Xu, 30, of Folsom, with multiple child exploitation offenses, United States Attorney Benjamin B. Wagner announced.

According to the affidavit in support of arrest warrant filed against both defendants, Bowen and Xu came to the attention of law enforcement after being arrested in Davis, California on July 10, 2013. On that date, Xu was observed approaching 10- to 12-year-old boys and exposing herself to them. Bowen was present and would film Xu's encounters with the boys. Charges relating to those acts remain on file in Yolo County. The Yolo County investigation uncovered information that led to the federal charges.

According to federal court documents, between January 1, 2013, and July 10, 2013, Bowen and Xu shared sexually explicit images of children. The complaint against Xu also alleges that on June 22, 2013, she made sexually explicit images of her own child. The complaint against Bowen alleges that on July 10, 2013, he possessed images of child pornography.

Bowen made his initial appearance in federal court on Monday, September 9, 2013. He was detained as a danger to the community and a flight risk. Xu made her initial appearance in federal court today. The judge ordered her to remain in custody until a detention hearing on Friday.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Davis Police Department, the Yolo County District Attorney's Office, the Sacramento Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. ICAC is a federally and state-funded task force managed by the Sacramento Sheriff's Department with agents from federal, state, and local agencies. The Sacramento ICAC investigates online child exploitation crimes, including child pornography, enticement, and sex trafficking. Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon is prosecuting the case.

If convicted, Bowen and Xu face five to 20 years in prison. If convicted of the production charge, Xu faces 15 to 30 years in prison. Each charge also carries a potential fine of up to \$250,000 and a lifetime period of supervised release. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations; each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute those who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit <code>www.usdoj.gov/psc</code>. Click on the "resources" tab for information about Internet safety education.

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