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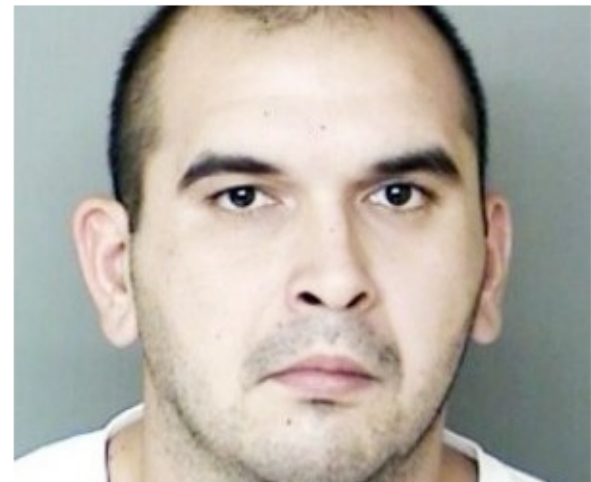
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Facebook predator apprehended

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A Falfurrias man has been arrested after attempting to use communication through Facebook to convince two 14 year-old girls to engage in sexual acts.

Amulfo Horacio Garcia Jr., 30, was arrested by Border Patrol agents on Tuesday after he was stopped on suspicion of smuggling on Farm to Market Road 755 in Brooks County. Garcia had a warrant for his arrest out of Duval County and was taken in by Brooks County deputies and held until he was picked up by Duval County Investigators on Wednesday.

His arrest is the culmination of a four month long

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Arnulfo Horacio Garcia Jr.

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On April 20, one of the victims walked out of class after receiving what she perceived as a threatening text from Garcia.

He was listed on her phone under the name "Creeper."

"Um I know you do and you better or (expletive) will happen to you for real, and I ain't playing with you," Garcia's text said.

The girl took the message to her principal, who in turn called the Duval County Sheriff's Department. Investigators are not giving any details on the victims in the case, except to say that they are 14 years of age and residents of Duval County.

During the interview Duval County Sgt. Ricardo Carrillo II conducted with the victim at the school, she said she met Garcia through another 14 year-old girl.

The second girl was also interviewed by investigators. She said she met Garcia on Facebook in October 2011. At the time, he claimed to be 19 years-old. At the time, Garcia was 29 years-old.

Carrillo said Garcia was persistent in his demands to meet up with the victim. He used terms like "r u dff," which is an online abbreviation for whether someone is interested in engaging in sexual intercourse, Carrillo said. He also asked the victim if she had been with guys before and how many. He also told her things that she wanted to hear, Carrillo said, such as how much he missed her, in attempts to wear down her resolve.

The victim made excuses to Garcia as to why she could not see her, including that she was busy or stuck at home. She did eventually send him pictures, but they were of her in a shorts and t-shirt, and not more revealing pictures, as he had requested.


During his investigation, Carrillo received over 3,000 pages worth of Facebook postings from Garcia's page. Carrillo said of the more than 300 friends of Garcia's page, more than half were 16-years-old or younger.

Garcia sent pictures of himself to both girls, Carrillo said. During his hour and a half interview with Carrillo, Garcia confessed to making the facebook postings. He said he knew the two girls were underage and that he had attempted to get with them. He never met either girl in person. When questioned as to why he would communicate with underage girls, Garcia said he had low self-esteem issues.

Based on the information the Duval County Sheriff's Department received on Garcia's Facebook page, other cases may be forthcoming in Jim Wells County and Brooks County, from other young girls Garcia communicated with.

investigation conducted by Duval County Sheriff's Investigators, with the assistance of the Corpus Christi Police Department Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce and agents with the FBI Corpus Christi Field

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Information contained in his Facebook postings might also lead to cases opening in the Rio Grande Valley area. Police departments in Harlingen, McAllen and Edinburg also assisted in the search for Garcia prior to his apprehension.

Garcia was charged with stalking and online solicitation of a minor, both third degree felonies. He is currently being housed in separation for his own protection at the Duval County Jail. Garcia's bonds total \$75,000.

"There are laws in place, if someone is trying to meet with children online, there are laws to protect children. The principal did a very good thing notifying us about the situation," Carrillo said. "Regardless of your intended audience, when you post on facebook, you post for the world to see."

Carrillo also said it was important for parents to monitor their children for changes in behavior that could be connected to inappropriate online communication. Changes such as reluctance to use the computer in the family room, in front of other. Attempts to move the computer from a common area into a bedroom, and or the use of multiple windows while online, could point to inappropriate behavior going on online, Carrillo said.

Duval County Sheriff Romeo Ramirez said it is important for residents to understand that the picture you see on Facebook doesn't necessarily mean you are talking to that person online, and that deception is rampant over the internet. Parents need to be especially attentive to their children's activities while online, Ramirez said.

Carrillo said the department is committing several thousand dollars towards new equipment which will give investigators an edge when it comes to investigating and prosecuting online crimes. He declined to go into details, but did say the equipment would also be a resource of use to other adjacent law enforcement agencies in the area and the Border Patrol.

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