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**AUSTIN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

**(AUSTIN, TEXAS)** United States Attorney Johnny Sutton and Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott announced today that an Austin man faces a mandatory ten years to 25 years in prison after pleading guilty this afternoon to federal child pornography charges.

Appearing before United States Senior District Judge Harry Lee Hudspeth, 40-year-old **BRIAN KEITH O'QUIN** pled guilty to one count of sexual exploitation of a child and one count of possession of child pornography. O'Quin remains in federal custody pending sentencing which is scheduled for 1:30pm on March 13, 2003.

O'Quin admitted that between approximately June 2000 and approximately December 2001, he was assigned by Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Central Texas to mentor to a 15-year-old male. During that time frame, O'Quin photographed the child while the child's genitalia was exposed and stored the photograph on his computer's hard drive.

On January 9, 2002, authorities executed a search warrant at O'Quin's residence. After examining the defendant's computer, authorities discovered numerous images of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Some of these images even included acts of sadistic abuse.

Noting the seriousness of these offenses, United States Attorney Johnny Sutton stated, "This office will continue to prosecute all child pornography and child exploitation cases brought to us. Individuals who prey upon the innocence of children for self gratification will be held accountable for their intolerable actions."

"Our investigators in the Texas Internet Bureau, together with their local and federal counterparts, found this individual to be engaging in extreme child pornography, with elements of sado-masochism and unspeakable cruelty to children," said Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott. "We believe that applying the federal statutes in the conviction and sentencing of this person will ensure the he remains where he belongs -- off the streets and behind bars."

This case was investigated by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's Internet Bureau together with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Williamson County Sheriff's Office and the Austin Police Department. John S. Klassen, Special Assistant United States Attorney and Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas, is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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