

Christian radio show host arrested on child rape charge

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A second man was arrested Friday as part of a Battle Creek investigation into manufacturing child pornography and having sex with minors.

John Balyo, 35, of Caledonia was arrested in Gaylord as part of a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Battle Creek Police Department and Michigan State Police.

Balyo, an on-air personality at WCSG-FM, a Christian radio station associated with Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, was arrested on a state charge of first-degree criminal sexual conduct, according to Khaalid Walls, a spokesman for ICE.

Walls said Friday investigators are alleging that Balyo had sexual encounters with minors in Battle Creek.

ICE said in a statement that Balyo paid a Battle Creek man, Ronald Moser, 42, to arrange sexual encounters with underage children.

Walls said officers executed a search warrant at Balyo's home in Caledonia and based on the evidence they found went to Gaylord to make the arrest. Other details of the investigation are not being released.

Moser was arrested during the first week of June and indicted on federal child pornography charges. Federal and local officers raided Moser's home on Bernardo Place on June 5 and said they seized evidence that Moser was making pornography involving young boys.

He was indicted on four counts in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids, including two for sexual exploitation of children, and one each of possession of child pornography and distribution of child pornography.

Detective Sgt. Jim Martens said a detective from the Battle Creek Police Department accompanied other officers to search Balyo's house and to arrest him in Gaylord.

Police have alleged Balyo had one sexual encounter with a minor in Battle Creek in May.

He was taken to Grand Rapids for questioning and then will be returned to the Calhoun County jail in Battle Creek to await arraignment, probably on Monday, Walls said.

Federal charges also are expected in the case.

ICE officials said the case is part of Operation Predator, an international investigation into crimes against children which includes manufacturing and distributing child pornography and sex with minors.

Last year agents working in Operation Predator made 2,000 arrests.

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