



# ***PRESS RELEASE***

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: Friday, July 11, 2008**  
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### **Internet predator arrested**

#### *Exchange of nude photos with 12-year-old girl adds child pornography charges*

Riverside, CA -- Authorities arrested a 23-year-old Colorado man who conducted an online romance with a Riverside girl he knew to be 12 years old, and who convinced the girl to exchange emailed nude photos with him. He made preliminary plans to meet the girl at a Riverside motel before the relationship was discovered and reported by the girl's elementary school teacher.

Pedro "Pete" VEGA, 23, of Alamosa, CO; encountered the girl online while playing an interactive computer game in February 2008. They began direct chats in between gaming sessions and began "online dating" on Valentine's Day. Vega then sent the girl nude photos of himself and he convinced the girl to take nude photos of herself and send them to him. They exchanged several photos. Both parties were aware of the age difference; Vega knew the girl's true age.

The girl's Internet activity was not monitored at home. The relationship and activity was discovered in conversation by a teacher at the girl's local elementary school and reported to police on April 24. A search warrant served for the computer at Vega's Colorado address revealed evidence of chat conversations and plans to come to Riverside for the purpose of having sex with the young girl. Vega, who is unemployed, lived with an aunt at the time of the offences.

Vega faces child exploitation and child pornography charges -- of sending nude photos of himself to a minor, and for arranging to meet the minor, for the sexual exploitation of a minor and possession of child pornography.

Alamosa Police arrested Vega at a motel in that community at about 1 p.m. local time, Thursday, July 10. Vega is being held at the Alamosa County Detention Center in Colorado, pending extradition to California.

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