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CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DIST. OF CALIF.  
LOS ANGELES

BY \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
January 2016 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
JOSHUA PAUL CROUCH,  
Defendant.

CR No. 16-**CR16-0273**

I N D I C T M E N T

[18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(a)(1), (b)(1),  
1594(a): Attempted Sex Trafficking  
of a Child; 18 U.S.C. § 2422(b):  
Use of a Facility of Interstate  
Commerce to Attempt to Induce a  
Minor to Engage in Criminal Sexual  
Activity]

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE

[18 U.S.C. §§ 1591(a)(1), (b)(1), 1594(a)]

On or about March 30, 2016, in Los Angeles County, within the  
Central District of California, defendant JOSHUA PAUL CROUCH  
("CROUCH"), in and affecting interstate commerce, knowingly attempted  
to recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, advertise,  
maintain, patronize, and solicit by any means, a person, knowing and  
in reckless disregard of the fact that such person had not attained  
the age of 14 years and would be caused to engage in a commercial sex  
act, namely, defendant CROUCH attempted to recruit, entice, harbor,

1 transport, provide, obtain, advertise, maintain, patronize, and  
2 solicit a person whom he believed to be a thirteen-year-old girl, to  
3 engage in oral sex with defendant CROUCH in exchange for \$60.

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COUNT TWO

[18 U.S.C. § 2422(b)]

On or about March 30, 2016, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant JOSHUA PAUL CROUCH ("CROUCH"), used a facility and means of interstate and foreign commerce, namely, the Internet and a telephone, to knowingly attempt to persuade, induce, entice, and coerce an individual who had not attained the age of 18 years, namely, an undercover agent ("UC") whom defendant CROUCH believed to be a thirteen-year-old girl named "Cassie" (hereinafter "Cassie"), to engage in sexual activity for which a person can be charged with a criminal offense, namely, Oral Copulation with a Minor, in violation of California, Penal Code Section 288(a).

In attempting to commit this offense, defendant CROUCH did something that was a substantial step towards committing the offense, including the following acts, among others:

1. On or about March 30, 2016, defendant CROUCH answered an advertisement placed by law enforcement on the Internet website www.backpage.com, that advertised potential commercial sex acts, by calling the telephone number provided on the advertisement.

2. On or about March 30, 2016, defendant CROUCH exchanged the following text messages with the UC:

UC: [Cassie is] only avail for special clients

CROUCH: Huh?

UC: shes yng

CROUCH: 18?

UC: shes very xxx 13 yo

CROUCH: How old are you

1 CROUCH: Very xxx?

2 UC: im 15 babe. but look older

3 CROUCH: Oh ok

4 3. On or about March 30, 2016, defendant CROUCH sent, via text  
5 message, two photographs, including one of an erect penis, to the UC  
6 whom defendant CROUCH believed to be fifteen years old.

7 4. On or about March 30, 2016, defendant CROUCH then exchanged  
8 the following text messages with the UC:

9 UC: ill work that. what u wantin?

10 CROUCH: Quickie

11 CROUCH: Address?

12 UC: so that will be 150 hh. quickie sukk and fukk cool???

13 CROUCH: I don't have that much on me

14 CROUCH: I got 60 if you can do 10mins

15 CROUCH: It wouldn't take long. An I'm close

16 UC: 10 mins?? just a sukk then sweetie.

17 CROUCH: Ok

18 CROUCH: Where am I headed

19 UC: im at the doubletree in san pedro hmu when u get here  
20 and ill give u the room

21 UC: how long do i need to wait? wanna make sure im all  
22 fresh

23 CROUCH: Cassie is gonna suck me?

24 CROUCH: Ok

25 UC: hey babe this cassie yeah ill suck u good.

26 CROUCH: I like Latinas that's why I ask

27 5. On or about March 30, 2016, defendant CROUCH traveled to  
28 the DoubleTree hotel in San Pedro, California, to meet "Cassie."

