



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
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**LAOTIAN MAN ARRESTED AT RIVERSIDE MONASTERY CHARGED WITH
POSSESSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

RIVERSIDE – Today, June 3, 2016, a man in the United States on a religious worker visa made his first court appearance after being charged with one count each of possession of child pornography and distribution of child pornography.

Kounzong Saebphang, DOB: 7-5-89, of Laos is charged with two felonies and was scheduled to be arraigned today at Riverside County Superior Court in Riverside. His arraignment was continued to Monday, June 6, 2016, at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 34.

Saebphang was arrested June 1, 2016, at the Wat Lao Buddhist Monastery in Riverside where he resided as a monk. The arrest came subsequent to the execution of a federal search warrant at that location.

The investigation began last year when the Riverside County Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) task force received information from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children about the possible distribution of child pornography. SAFE investigators sought assistance from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents assigned to the task force after determining there could be international implications.

Based on the evidence in the case, it is alleged that Saebphang possessed child pornography on at least one digital device found at his residence at the monastery and that he distributed child pornography to another person through a social media website. The investigation, including forensic examinations of items seized during the execution of the search warrant, is on-going.

After his arrest, Saebphang was booked at the Robert Presley Detention Center in Riverside where he is being held in lieu of \$10,000 bail. If convicted as currently charged, Saebphang faces a maximum sentence of three years and eight months in state prison.

The case, RIF1602738, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Teresa Beecham.

The SAFE task force, housed at the DA's Office, is a collaborative effort of the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the Riverside County Probation Department, HSI, and the FBI. SAFE is tasked with investigating crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children online.

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