



For Immediate Release
August 8, 2003

Rep. Pitts praises Justice Department for enforcing obscenity laws

Calls obscenity indictment "huge victory for women"

Washington—Congressman Joe Pitts (R, PA-16) today commended the Justice Department for its efforts to stem the tide of obscenity. Two individuals (Robert Zicari and Janet Ramano) and one corporation (Extreme Associates) have been indicted on 10 counts of violating federal obscenity laws. United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Mary Beth Buchanan announced the indictment yesterday.

"This week's indictment is a huge victory for women," said Rep. Pitts. **"And it's a big win for decency. These people profited from depicting violent rapes and even murders in their pornographic films.**

"That is not a legitimate business. And it's unacceptable in a civilized society. Preventing this garbage from being produced and distributed in the first place should be one of our top priorities. I am pleased to see the Justice Department take this important step towards protecting women," continued Rep. Pitts.

The indictment is based on the distribution of obscene films and the transmission of obscene video clips over the Internet and through the mail. The videos included the brutal rapes and murders of women.

If found guilty, the individuals face a maximum of 50 years in prison, a fine of \$2,500,000 or both while the corporation faces a maximum of 50 years probation, a fine of \$5,000,000 or both. The United States also is seeking forfeiture of the obscene films charged in the indictment, all gross profits from the distribution of the films, and all property used to facilitate the charged obscenity crimes.

"As we root out corporate crooks and terrorists, we can't forget how important this week's action is. We have to enforce these obscenity laws to protect women and children, uphold decency, and strangle illegitimate businesses," concluded Rep. Pitts.

More information on the indictment can be found by calling the Office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania at (412) 644-3500.

###