

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA * CRIMINAL NO. 25-194

v. * SECTION: O

ARIEL KORNIENKO *

*

* * *

FACTUAL BASIS

The defendant, **ARIEL KORNIENKO** (“**KORNIENKO**”), has agreed to plead guilty as charged to the one-count Bill of Information charging her with Distribution of Animal Crush Videos in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 48(a)(3). The defendant stipulates that the following facts are true and, should this matter have gone to trial, the government would have proven, through the introduction of competent testimony and other admissible evidence, the following facts, beyond a reasonable doubt, to support the allegations in the Bill of Information now pending against the defendant. All the events below occurred within the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Evidence would prove that on or about October 25, 2023, and continuing through June 7, 2024, within the Eastern District of Louisiana, and elsewhere, that **KORNIENKO** did knowingly and intentionally distribute or cause to be distributed one or more animal crush videos, as defined in Title 18, United States Code, Section 48(f), in, or using a means and facility of, interstate and foreign commerce. Testimony would prove that “animal crushing” means actual conduct in which one or more living non-human mammals, birds, reptiles, or amphibians is purposely crushed, burned, drowned, suffocated, impaled, or otherwise subjected to serious bodily injury (as defined

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in section 1365). The defendant agrees that if such conduct were committed against a person and in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, it would violate Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2241, 2242, and 2246(4) (describing and defining Aggravated Sexual Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Serious Bodily Injury).

Specifically, **KORNIENKO** knowingly posted on Telegram the videos identified below depicting the impaling and burning of monkeys in the genitals, penetrating them with inanimate objects, and subjecting them to serious bodily injury and death.

#	Length (minutes and seconds)	Activity Depicted in the Video	Text Over of the Video (or name of the file)
1	9:17	An individual utilizes a pair of pliers to squeeze the penis and scrotum of a live monkey. The monkey was then repeatedly slammed to the ground while holding the monkey by the penis with the pliers.	IMG_5848.MP4
2	5:01	A screwdriver or similar instrument is heated over an open flame and used to burn the anus of the monkey multiple times in the video.	IMG_6556.MP4
3	5:01	A hot pepper paste is applied to a toothbrush and rubbed into the monkey's mouth then penis.	PRL04_PepperPaste.Outdoor_.
4	5:07	An individual tied a monkey to a cage and then held a screwdriver or similar instrument into a fire heating up the metal. The hot screwdriver is applied to the restrained monkey's stomach and scrotum multiple times.	video_2022-05-27_23-41-46.mp4
5	5:01	A restrained monkey is rubbed with sandpaper on his stomach until blood appears. The sandpaper is applied to and rubbed over the monkey's genitals until it defecates.	video_2022-06-01_23-46-30.mp4
6	9:00	A monkey is suspended upside down in the air by his scrotum. A monkey is nailed to a	video_2024-11-12_10-49-01.mp4

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		tree by their ear and hands and then the arm is lit on fire.	
7	6:21	A monkey is tied to a cage by his arms and legs exposing his penis. An individual utilizes pliers and repeatedly tries to pull the monkey's penis off and eventually the monkey's skin is torn in and around his genitals. An accelerant is applied to the monkey, and he is then lit on fire.	video_2024-11-12_10-52-13.mp4
8	41:36	A toothbrush handle is inserted into the monkey's anus while its legs are tied behind its head. The toothbrush handle is shoved down the monkey's throat until the monkey appears to die.	video_2024-11-12_10-56-08.mp4
9	32:26	A monkey is nailed to a board by his hands and feet. Ice is applied to his stomach and penis for an extended period. A lit cigarette is shoved into the monkey's mouth to inflict pain. A hot iron is applied to the monkey's penis leaving a visible burn. The monkey's eyes are then burned with the iron. The monkey died drowning in a bucket of ice water.	video_2024-11-12_11-06-13.mp4
10	36:57	Graphic abuse of multiple monkeys. A monkey has a screwdriver inserted into his or her anus. A monkey has his or her anus lit on fire.	video_2024-11-12_11-09-08.mp4

KORNIENKO agrees that these videos do not fall within any exception listed in Title 18, United States Code, Section 48(d) and that these videos also satisfy the three-prong test that the Supreme Court articulated in *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15 (1973). Namely, these videos distributed by **KORNIENKO**: (1) taken as a whole, lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value; (2) depict or describe in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct; and (3) that “the average person, applying contemporary community standards” would find that the work,

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taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest. As a result, the videos are obscene and not protected by the First Amendment.

Evidence and testimony would prove that **KORNIENKO** used the moniker “Baroness” on Telegram. **KORNIENKO** also actively hosted a Telegram group dedicated to animal crush videos, specifically primate videos. Telegram is an encrypted, cloud-based, and centralized instant messaging service. Telegram also provides optional end-to-end encryption and video calling, voice-over Internet protocol, and file sharing, along with several other features, thus affecting interstate and foreign commerce.

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Limited Nature of Factual Basis


This proffer of evidence is not intended to constitute a complete statement of all facts known to the government but rather is a minimum statement of facts intended to prove the necessary factual predicate for the guilty plea. The limited purpose of this factual basis is to satisfy the Court that there is a sufficient basis in fact for **KORNIENKO's** guilty plea.

READ AND APPROVED:



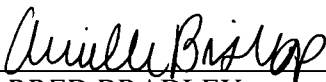
MARY KATHERINE KAUFMAN
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Date



ARIEL KORNIENKO
Defendant

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