

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	*	
	*	
v.	*	Crim. No. 26-64
	*	
AMANDA FOUREZ,	*	
	*	
Defendant.	*	Hon. Christy Criswell Wiegand
	*	

**MOTION FOR ORDER LIMITING PREJUDICIAL, EXTRAJUDICIAL
STATEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE**

Days ago, U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement announced on its website and that Amanda Fourez is a “sick person.” That label came from a statement by the agency’s Acting Director, Todd Lyons, and was posted alongside a photograph of Ms. Fourez smiling, taken from what appears to be a driver’s license or other official document that was not previously widely available to the public. *See ICE, Illinois woman pleads guilty to distributing violent, sexual animal crushing videos following ICE investigation* (Apr. 27, 2026) ([available at link](#)). ICE then spread that post across its social media handles.¹ The ICE posts came nearly two weeks after Ms. Fourez had pled guilty in this Court—and well after the Department of Justice had issued its own, conventional press release announcing the charges. ICE chose to go further. In addition to the gratuitous attacks on Ms. Fourez’s character, its release exploited the prosecution as a vehicle for rehabilitating the agency’s own tarnished public image: “Although many Americans think ICE’s work is strictly


¹ *See, e.g.*, <https://x.com/ICEgov/status/2049121400258990383> (X.com), <https://www.instagram.com/p/DXrWZKDDMEh/> (Instagram), <https://www.facebook.com/icegov/posts/pfbid02HWf8iHreb4zpnPqzDDqRB7A7MSRqNXwJ94FtV4an2JU5vx8foSXBtBJ2xjqZnQial> (Facebook). Each of the social media posts linked to the full website press-release linked above in a comment below the post.

immigration related,” ICE wrote, it actually “enforces over 400 federal laws and statutes, including cybercrimes.” *Id.*

The fallout was immediate and predictable. National outlets—TMZ, *People*, Fox News, the *New York Post*, and Yahoo, among many others—posted articles about Ms. Fourez. Nearly all picked up the ICE Director’s “sick person” line and put it in their headlines, along with the smiling picture of Ms. Fourez that ICE had chosen to disclose:

ILLINOIS WOMAN GUILTY IN SADISTIC 'ANIMAL CRUSHING' VIDEO CASE

By TMZ STAFF
Published April 28, 2026 10:16 AM PDT | Updated April 28, 2026 11:25 AM PDT



FOX NEWS Follow

Woman pleads guilty to paying for sexual torture videos involving monkeys for online group: 'Sick person'

Alec Schemmel
Tue, April 28, 2026 at 4:55 PM EDT
2 min read

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US NEWS

Sicko pleads guilty to paying for sexual torture videos involving monkeys for online group: 'Sick person'

By Alec Schemmel, Fox News
Published April 29, 2026, 5:38 a.m. ET

People.com
<https://people.com> · Crime · Crime News

What Kind of Sick Person? Ill. Woman Pleads Guilty in ' ...

22 hours ago — Amanda Leigh Fourez pleaded guilty to paying “thousands of dollars to have others make sexual torture videos involving adult and baby ... [Read more](#)

MSN


'Sick' woman paid for sexual torture video of baby monkeys

Known as 'animal crush videos,' these depictions show real monkeys being burned alive.
1 day ago

The Mirror US

Woman kept sick sex torture videos of baby monkeys 'having genitals mutilated'


An Illinois woman pleaded guilty to paying thousands of dollars for disturbing videos known as “animal crush videos.” Amanda Leigh Fourez...
1 day ago



Hindustan Times

Who is Amanda Leigh Fourez? Illinois woman pleads guilty to distributing sick 'animal crush videos' | Hindustan Times


Amanda Leigh Fourez, an Illinois woman, has pleaded guilty to distributing “violent” and “sexual” videos of monkeys being tortured online.
14 hours ago



AOL.com

Woman pleads guilty to paying for sexual torture videos involving monkeys for online group: 'Sick person'


Illinois woman Amanda Leigh Fourez pleaded guilty to distributing “animal crush videos” depicting monkeys being burned alive and sexually tortured.
19 hours ago



East Idaho News

Woman pleads guilty in 'animal crush' video case described as 'horrific' by prosecutors


WASHINGTON — An Illinois woman has pleaded guilty to federal charges after investigators uncovered her role in commissioning and...



Metro.co.uk

'Sick' woman paid for sexual torture video of baby monkeys

An American woman paid thousands of dollars to have others make sexual torture videos involving adult and baby monkeys.



Threats followed within minutes: countless social media posts demanding that Ms. Fourez and her family² be tortured, raped, beaten, and killed. They are not idle. The charging information, DOJ’s original press release, and most of the news coverage identify the small Illinois town where Ms. Fourez—a private citizen with no criminal history—lives. The population is under 2,000. Anyone who wants to find her can. Here is a sample of the many threats now circulating online:



² To protect Ms. Fourez’s family’s privacy, counsel does not post any examples of the posts referring to her family below—but undersigned counsel has viewed pictures posted on social media of Ms. Fourez’s father, his social media accounts, and her parents’ dog that have circulated in the wake of ICE’s press release. Counsel has also viewed posts made by people claiming to live “a few blocks” from the Fourez family’s home or otherwise claiming to know her or her family. Ms. Fourez’s father reported to counsel that her family has had to delete their social media and set up security cameras around the family home because of the volume of harassment and death threats they have received. And since the ICE post on Monday, Ms. Fourez has also been harassed in public by people who recognized her from the resulting national news articles.

Jessica Baird
Maybe those same things she paid to have done to the animals could be done to her?
8h 54

Meme K Ultra @Meme_K_Ultra · 15h
Everything she did to those monkeys should be done to her.
197

Jason Pocock
I really feel if we brought back public hangings this type stuff would stop. this and pedophiles bn publicly castrated or what ever it is they do to women tht are pedophiles. just how i think maybe im wrong but im willing to bet it wld stop or atleast slow dwn ! anyone's thoughts?
9h 23

why do you care @zer0filtered · Apr 28
WTF!!!!
Everything that she did to these poor animals, or paid others to do, should DONE TO HER!!!!
Why are these assholes so deranged?!?
1 6 17K

Chad Rachel
One pass through a wood chipper is too good for her. Send her through twice.
3d 1.6K

Christine Payne
Time to to do the same to her!

Katie Mae
The one time yall didn't use violence, but should have... smh lol
2d 43

Daniel Saunders
If they bring back public burnings I'll bring the popcorn!
22m

Barry Anderson
Woodchipper time
3d 92

Alex Simion
Her punishment should be to put her in a cage with some very sexually active chips and no females and see how that will play out 🤔

J joyce13 3 days ago
Does anyone have a steel baseball bat I can borrow for a year I need it to take care of business!!
8 0
6 6ft6.255lbs. 3 days ago
Make sure you wrap it in barbed wire first.
3 0
J joyce13 3 days ago
I will definitely do that!!
2 0

tjhiter 14h
Make it slow and painful!!!!
Like Reply

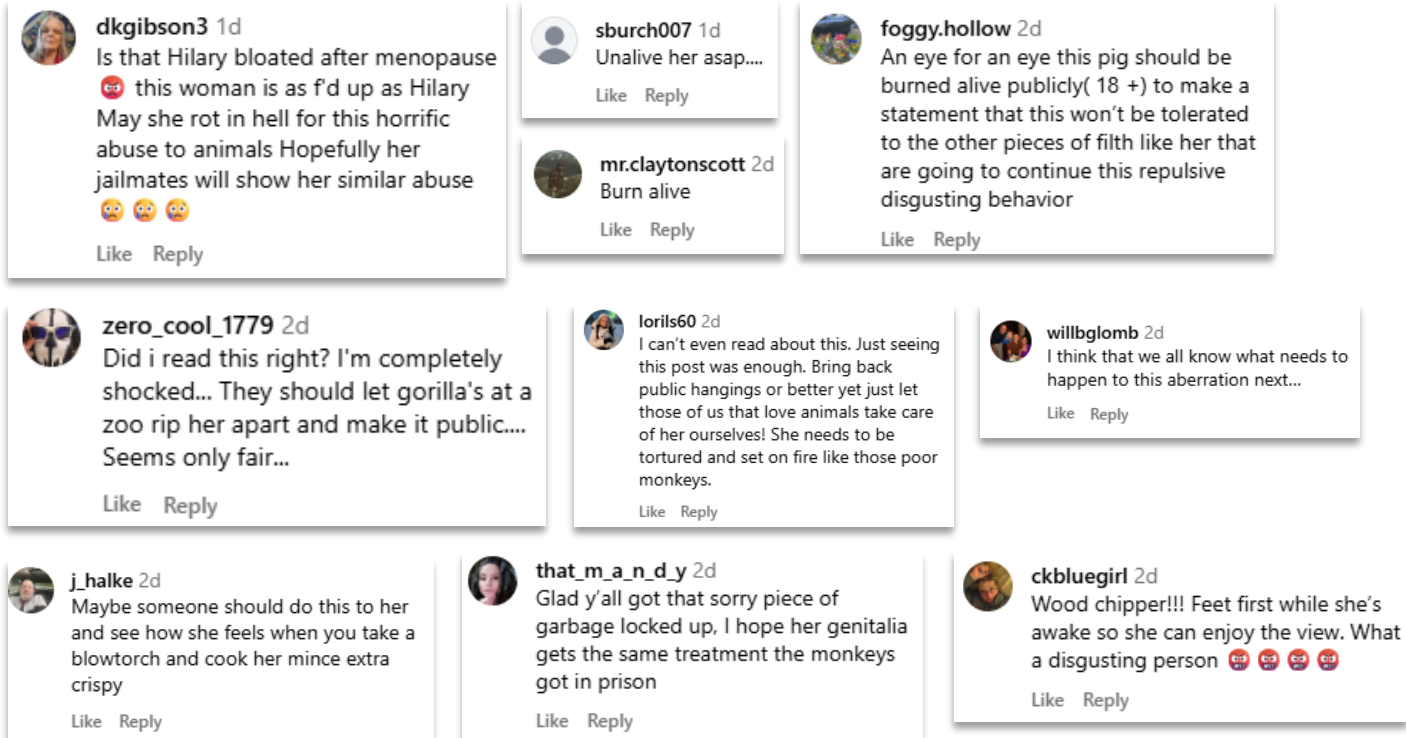
karensmith10282024 1d
NOT AN OUNCE OF GOOD IN THIS SADISTIC, SICK MONSTER...JUST ADDING TO ANOTHER LINE OF EVIL DERANGED 'LOSERS' WHAT GOES AROUND ALWAYS' COMES AROUND!! BE SURE OF THAT!
Like Reply

shellabella2489 1d
Why isn't she burning slow death after being r*ped? I'm confused.....
Like Reply

cesarbecalelwaisberg 1d
Hope she is tortured before getting killed.
Like Reply

nordicook7 1d
May this THING meet its Huckleberries around every corner 🍷🔥
Like Reply

romanov19188 2d
Let's mutilate and burn her
Like Reply



Of course, none of the innumerable people threatening to kill, maim, or rape Ms. Fourez and her family have the slightest bit of context about Ms. Fourez or the crime she has accepted responsibility for committing. Instead, this online mob has been whipped into a frenzy solely by a government agency irresponsibly disseminating her photograph and declaring her to be “sick” and “deranged.” The trauma inflicted by these threats is especially great for someone like Ms. Fourez, who was herself a victim of horrific sexual abuse throughout her childhood.

ICE’s social media assault crossed an important line. The Supreme Court has “unequivocally imposed a duty upon trial courts to take affirmative steps to insure the fairness of a criminal proceeding in the face of excessive publicity.” *Levine v. U.S. Dist. Court for Cent. Dist. of California*, 764 F.2d 590, 596 (9th Cir. 1985); *see Sheppard v. Maxwell*, 384 U.S. 333, 363(1966) (“The courts must take such steps by rule and regulation that will protect their processes from prejudicial outside interferences.”). And while “[s]tatements to the press may be an integral part

of a prosecutor's job, and ... may serve a vital public function, ... that function is strictly limited by the prosecutor's overarching duty to justice." *Souza v. Pina*, 53 F.3d 423, 427 (1st Cir. 1995) (cleaned up). ICE's gratuitous personal attack on Ms. Fourez broke well-established policies governing extrajudicial statements by federal law enforcement in criminal cases. The damage can't be undone—but the Court can and should take modest steps to protect the integrity of these proceedings, and the personal safety of Ms. Fourez and her family, going forward.

The Department of Justice's own regulations bar DOJ personnel from making, in public statements about a criminal case, "[o]bservations about a defendant's character," 28 C.F.R. § 50.2(b)(6)(i), or releasing "photographs of a defendant" except to serve "a law enforcement function," such as helping to track down an escaped fugitive. *Id.* § 50.2(b)(7). And while ICE itself sits within the Department of Homeland Security rather than DOJ, it is one of the law enforcement agencies that investigated this case and is helping prosecute it. The Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct (as well as the Rules of Professional Conduct in all states that have adopted the ABA's Model Rules) require government prosecutors to "exercise reasonable care to prevent investigators, law enforcement personnel, employees or other persons assisting or associated with the prosecutor in a criminal case" from making, among other inappropriate statements, "extrajudicial comments that have a substantial likelihood of heightening public condemnation of the accused." Pa. R. Prof'l Conduct 3.8(e); accord ABA Model Rule 3.8(f). Branding a defendant "sick" and "deranged" in a press release blasted to a national audience, along with a smiling photograph taken from an official document, meets that description with little room for argument.

The Court has both the inherent authority and the duty to ensure that nothing similar happens again. *See Levine*, 764 F.2d at 596; *Sheppard*, 384 U.S. at 363. Sentencing is still ahead.

Continued or renewed inappropriate commentary from government agents or agencies—labeling Ms. Fourez “sick” or “deranged,” releasing more photographs of her, or otherwise inflaming public condemnation for no legitimate law enforcement purpose—would compound the physical danger she now faces and risk distorting these proceedings. While Ms. Fourez does not doubt that this Court itself is capable of itself disregarding ICE’s extrajudicial commentary or the resulting pressure of public condemnation, further inflammatory comments by government agencies involved in this prosecution will place Ms. Fourez in even more serious danger—both now and if/when she must serve any sentence. Indeed, it is not an exaggeration to state that Ms. Fourez’s life is now in immediate, grave danger as a result of the ICE posting. In a free and civilized country, the threat of being murdered, raped, or tortured is neither a permissible condition of pre-trial release, nor an acceptable collateral consequence of incarceration.

To be clear, Ms. Fourez does not contend that the Assistant United States Attorneys assigned to this case authorized, contributed to, or had advance notice of ICE’s post. Indeed, both prosecutors have adhered to the highest standards of their profession in all of counsel’s interactions with them. But ahead of sentencing, Ms. Fourez can ask—and does ask—that the Court direct the government to do whatever is in their power to compel the law enforcement agencies involved in this case to comply with what DOJ’s own regulations and ethical rules already require.

Ms. Fourez accordingly requests that the Court enter an order directing the government to take all reasonable steps to prevent investigators, law enforcement personnel, employees, and other persons associated with the agencies involved in this case from making, in their official

capacity, any further extrajudicial statements that have a substantial likelihood of heightening public condemnation of Ms. Fourez or otherwise prejudicing these proceedings.

* * *

For all these reasons, the Court should grant this motion and enter an order directing the government to take all reasonable steps to prevent investigators, law enforcement personnel, employees, and other persons associated with the agencies involved in this case from making, in their official capacity, any further extrajudicial statements that have a substantial likelihood of heightening public condemnation of Ms. Fourez or otherwise prejudicing these proceedings. Those steps should include, at a minimum, providing a copy of the Court's order to the law enforcement agencies and agents involved in this case, and directing or requesting that they avoid making similar statements or disseminating photographs of Ms. Fourez again during the pendency of proceedings in this case.

Additionally, Ms. Fourez requests that the Court direct the government to file a status report by a date certain, confirming that such steps have been taken.

Respectfully submitted:

AMANDA FOUREZ

By counsel:

/s/ Jake D. Morrison

Jake D. Morrison
Assistant Federal Public Defender

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	*	
Defendant.	*	
	*	

ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this _____ day of May, 2026, having considered Amanda Fourez’s Motion for Order Limiting Prejudicial, Extrajudicial Statements by Government Agencies Involved in this Case, it is hereby ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED. The government shall take all reasonable steps within its power to direct the investigators, law enforcement personnel, employees, and other persons associated with the government agencies involved in this case from making, in their official capacity, any further extrajudicial statements that have a substantial likelihood of heightening public condemnation of Ms. Fourez or otherwise prejudicing these proceedings. Those steps shall include, at a minimum, providing a copy of the Court’s order to the federal law enforcement agencies and agents involved in this case and directing them to avoid making similar statements or disseminating photographs of Ms. Fourez again, absent a legitimate, law-enforcement purpose, during the pendency of proceedings in this case.

It is FURTHER ORDERED that on or before _____ the government shall file a status report informing the Court and defense counsel of the steps that have been taken to comply with the above order.

Hon. Christy Criswell Wiegand
United States District Judge