



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2007
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Extortion Arrest

Riverside, CA - On 10-08-07, members of the Riverside Police Department Economic Crimes Unit arrested Richard Christopher Perez, 18, of San Bernardino for Extortion and Burglary. Perez was taken into custody in the Food Court area of the Galleria at Tyler after he had arranged to meet the victim there and collect \$1,000.00 in cash. Perez was booked into the Robert Presley Detention Center for the violations.

Perez had allegedly sent several e-mail messages to the victim who operates a telecommunication marketing and distribution company in Riverside. The e-mails threatened that the sender would tell potential customers going into the business that the company was a "scam." The sender claimed that he could have a group help him stop customers to the front of the business, or that the victim could pay \$1,000.00 cash to avoid problems.

Detective Brian Money met with the victim in the morning on 10-08-07 as the person sending the e-mails said he would call the victim to set up a meeting. The suspect called and agreed to meet the victim at the Galleria at Tyler in the afternoon. The victim recognized Perez by his voice. Perez had met with the victim a few weeks earlier inquiring about the company.

Perez agreed to sign a document for the victim stating that he would no longer bother or harass the victim or the company in return for the \$1000.00. Perez signed the statement and took an envelope from the victim that allegedly contained \$1,000.00 cash. He was taken into custody without incident.

