



March 18, 2002

- [HOMEPAGE](#)
- [NEWS SUMMARY](#)
- [US](#)
- [INTERNATIONAL](#)
- [MONEYScope](#)
- [WEATHER](#)
- [LOCAL NEWS](#)
- [ENTERTAINMENT](#)
- [ESPN SPORTS](#)
- [SCI / TECH](#)
- [POLITICS](#)
- [HEALTH](#)
- [TRAVEL](#)

- [FEATURED SERVICES](#)
- [SHOPPING](#)
- [DOWNLOADS](#)
- [WIRELESS](#)

1/2 the cost of AOL

SIGN UP NOW!

- [INTERACT](#)
- [VIDEO & AUDIO](#)
- [WEBCASTS](#)
- [BOARDS](#)
- [CHAT](#)
- [NEWS ALERTS](#)
- [CONTACT ABC](#)

U.S.

'Operation Candyman'

More than 80 People Arrested in Cyber-Based Child Porn Ring

By *Ted Bridis*
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, March 18 — Federal law enforcement authorities have broken up a computer-based pornography ring that targeted children, Attorney General John Ashcroft said.

- [Print This Page](#)
- [Email This Page](#)
- [See Most Sent](#)

ALSO ON abcNEWS.com

- [Teen Tells of His Affair With Teacher](#)
- [New Heart Treatment Could Save Thousands](#)
- [Jalopy Jealousy: Is Your New Car Worth It?](#)

Announcing "Operation Candyman," Ashcroft said today that more than 80 people have been arrested in the operation and said more arrests are coming.

"As its name implies, the 'Operation Candyman' e-group had a single purpose in mind as well: to exploit and degrade children," Ashcroft told a news conference at FBI headquarters.

"It is clear that a new marketplace for child pornography has emerged from the dark corners of cyberspace," he said. "Innocent boys and girls have been targeted by offenders who view them as sexual objects."

E-mail Group Included Thousands

Ashcroft revealed that the sting operation had begun in January 2001 and that it continues.

"In the past 14 months," he said, "all 56 national FBI field

Click Here for **FREE** 14-Day Trial

US HEADLINES

- [A Second American Taliban?](#)
- [Jalopy Jealousy: Is Your New Car Worth It?](#)
- [Teen Tells of Affair With Teacher](#)
- [Priests Face Growing Isolation](#)
- [Russia Warned U.S. About FBI Agent](#)

Search Now:

amazon.com



offices investigated hundreds of individuals who were subscribers to the 'Candyman' e-mail group." Ashcroft said that among those caught in the sting were police officers, members of the clergy and — in one case — a bus driver.

He said that prior to today's announcement, the FBI had arrested 86 people "on child pornography grounds" and that 27 members of the "Candyman" e-mail group had admitted to molesting 36 children.

Ashcroft told reporters federal authorities have shut down the e-mail group and will move to shut down other such groups as well.

"Our investigation uncovered an estimated 7,000 members [of the e-mail group], including some 2,400 outside our borders," he said. ■

Copyright 2002 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

 [PRINT THIS PAGE](#) |  [SEND THIS TO A FRIEND](#) |  [VIEW MOST EMAILED](#)

Copyright © 2002 ABCNEWS Internet Ventures.

Click here for: [HELP](#) [ADVERTISER INFO](#) [CONTACT ABC](#) [TOOLS](#) [PR](#) [TERMS OF USE](#) [PRIVACY POLICY](#)

Family of sites: [ABC.com](#) [ABC Family](#) [ESPN.com](#) [Disney.com](#) [FamilyFun.com](#) [GO](#)
[Mail](#) [Movies.com](#)