

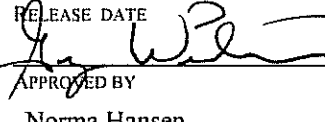
OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

CHRISTIE STANLEY
District Attorney



DA 12-0020
RELEASE NUMBER

December 31, 2008
RELEASE DATE


APPROVED BY
Norma Hansen
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* * * * * **P R E S S R E L E A S E** * * * * *

December 31, 2008

On December 29th, 2008, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney's Office Investigative Division received information that felony fugitive Orson Mozes was apprehended by the Miami-Dade Police Department in Florida.

In a case investigated by former Santa Barbara County District Attorney Criminal Investigator Laura Cleaves, Mozes is alleged to have operated a fraudulent international program, "Adoption International Program," from his home in Montecito, California.

A warrant for Mozes' arrest was signed on April 1, 2008, in the Santa Barbara County Superior Court, charging him with sixty-two counts of theft by false pretenses with an estimated loss of more than \$1 million dollars. By this time however, Mozes had fled Santa Barbara leaving no trace of his whereabouts.

Following the untimely death of Senior Investigator Laura Cleaves in May 2008, Santa Barbara County District Attorney Criminal Investigator Norma Hansen was assigned to track Mozes. Mozes was featured on the *America's Most Wanted* website, www.amw.com, as one of their "Dirty Dozen." An international wanted bulletin was distributed to 182 countries with the assistance of Interpol.

On December 22, 2008, Investigator Hansen learned that Mozes was arrested on December 21, 2008, for petty theft charges by the Miami-Dade Police Department in Florida. Mozes provided a false name when he was booked and was released before authorities learned who he was.

Investigator Hansen coordinated with the Miami-Dade Police Department's Fugitive apprehension team, who developed leads as to Mozes' whereabouts.

On December 29, 2008, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Mozes was taken into custody without incident.

Mozes is currently in the Miami-Dade County Jail awaiting extradition to Santa Barbara, California.