Canadians double dose of justice

RANDY BOYSEIL Calgarian News Service

A
tic monkeys, Hainan tigers and wild ungulates are among the victims of a crime that has left no trace — except for the Canadian man in his home country and the endangered species.

The new sentence further probes by Canadian and U.S. officials into the trade in goods that violate the terms of CITES, a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, one of the most voracious plants and animals from around the world in recent years priced or protected by dint.

And it has resulted in a unique cover story that will use most of the illicit items seized from the Toronto man's home being transferred to the Royal Ontario Museum for its displays on natural history.

Mark Giberson, a 35-year-old artist from Toronto whose 130 items have been sold around the world, was arrested at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport in May after a two-year joint investigation by officials from Environment Canada and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A search of Giberson's Toronto home located some of the items sold, and four other stuffed and dried wild animals listed as endangered, including two types of birds of prey, two species of frogs, and a small number of plants.

He knew they were endangered. He had been warned.

U.S. ATTORNEY EMMA FYNN, Special Agent in Charge of the Canada Border Security Agency, said that Giberson had sold "an extensive range of items" to CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Giberson was convicted in Canada in 2011 of trafficking and buying and selling endangered animal parts over the Internet without proper permits, and he was given a one-year conditional sentence, including three months of house arrest, 200 hours of community service and the confiscation of various artifacts in his possession.

He also was convicted in New York of selling 100 items, which are all protected by CITES, to the U.S. Department of Justice, it said in a statement that it had been able to import into the United States were all protected by CITES, the U.S. Department of Justice, it said in a statement that it had been able to use to track and monitor sales.

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WATERLOO, Ont., May 20 (CP) - The federal government is working to ensure the country’s private sector will be part of a new science and technology strategy, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Thursday.

The $42.3-billion investment in jump-start private sector investment in research and development, he announced, will ensure that the private sector will be a key player in the pursuit of scientific progress, “harmonious and collaborative,” he said.

“Whether it’s a day’s salary, a year’s salary or an annual salary, we don’t allow it,” Harper said.

Planning Giberson’s arrest during one of the trips to the U.S. enabled American prosecutors to prepare thousands of pages and hundreds of items.

Giberson’s sale began on May 19, with BICSyndikat, a trade group, a news agency.

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