

Copyright charges for NinjaVideo operators

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Many of the movies offered by NinjaVideo.net, which was shut down by US [law enforcement](#) in June 2010, were still playing in theaters and others had not yet been released publicly, the department said in a statement.

The indictments were handed down on Thursday by a [federal grand jury](#) in Alexandria, Virginia, the department said.

The five were charged with one count of conspiracy and five counts of [copyright infringement](#) for their involvement with NinjaVideo, it said.

According to the indictment, NinjaVideo was launched in February 2008 and allowed visitors to illegally download copyright-protected movies and TV shows in high-quality formats.

Many movies were offered for free and a greater selection was available for a donation of at least \$25, the [Justice Department](#) said.

It said the operators allegedly collected more than \$500,000 during the website's two-and-a-half years of operation.

The five charged were Hana Amal Beshara, 29, of New Jersey; Matthew David Howard Smith, 23, of North Carolina; Joshua David Evans, 34, of Washington state; Zoi Mertzanis, 36, of Greece; and Jeremy Lynn Andrew, 33, of Oregon.

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