

Indonesia arrests man selling protected eagles on Facebook

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Police display an Indonesian man arrested on suspicion of selling eagles on Facebook in Surabaya city

Indonesian police posing as wildlife buyers have arrested a suspected trafficker for selling protected eagles on Facebook, an official said Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, authorities in Indonesia's second-largest city of

Surabaya swooped on the man's home on Monday, where they discovered 14 eagles in cages and cardboard boxes, provincial police force spokesman Argo Yuwono told AFP.

Among the various species were white-bellied sea eagles and spotted kestrels, as well as five eaglets, Yuwono said.

"Before arresting him, we went undercover and acted as buyers to confirm he was selling the birds on Facebook," he said.

"Eagles are protected animals in Indonesia. Selling these birds is illegal and a serious crime."

It's the first known case in Indonesia of wildlife being sold through the popular social networking site, the spokesman said.

Police claim the man had been running his online operation for six months, selling eaglets for 750,000 rupiah (\$56) and fully-grown birds for up to five million rupiah each.

Yuwono said four of the eaglets had since died from illness, but the other birds had been sent to Indonesia's natural resources conservation office, which deals with wildlife-trafficking cases.

If found guilty of possessing and selling the protected animals, the trafficker could face five years prison and 100 million rupiah in fines.

Indonesian police in May arrested a suspected wildlife smuggler after discovering nearly two dozen live [birds](#), mostly yellow-crested cockatoos, jammed alive inside [plastic water bottles](#) in his luggage.



Indonesian police inspect a baby eagle seized during a raid against a man suspected of selling eagles on Facebook in Surabaya city



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