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Pedophile gets 21 years in prison

A former pediatrician convicted of traveling to Mexico to have sex with young boys at what the U.S. government described as a brothel for pedophiles was sentenced yesterday to 21 years and 10 months in prison. U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan said the long sentence was necessary to prevent Stefan Irving, 56, of Brooklyn from abusing boys in the future. Kaplan called Irving an "extremely dangerous individual" and said he had no doubt that Irving had been ; getting away with numerous instances of sexual abuse for years before he was caught and prosecuted. He also fined him \$250,000, saying Irving had repeatedly violated the oath he took as a doctor to "do no harm." Irving traveled in 1998 to a resort in Acapulco, Mexico, where poor, orphaned boys, some as young as 6, were paired with visiting men for sex, according to government court papers. He traveled in 1999 to Honduras for the same purpose, the government said. Irving's lawyer, Cheryl J. Sturm, had argued for leniency, saying her client was ; a "touchy feely kind of person who was never into rough stuff' but yet was being sentenced the same as those who commit kidnapping, torture or worse. In September, Irving was convicted after a weeklong trial that included testimony from the former manager of the Mexican resort, who told the jury Irving had fondled a child in the swimming pool and had taken two children to his room.