



## Every Child's Right – Freedom from Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

**Media Release**

**11<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

### **Child Pornographer jailed for 2<sup>nd</sup> conviction**

ECPAT NZ commends the work of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), in catching a repeat child pornography offender after a tip off from German Police.

Their work resulted in the conviction of a 40-year-old Lower Hutt man for possessing pictures and movies of children being sexually abused. He was jailed yesterday for two years and four months.

This was the second such conviction for Dean Cooper, unemployed of Fairview, who was also caught by Internal Affairs censorship inspectors in 1999 trading child sexual abuse images on the Internet. In that instance he was fined \$5,000 and forfeited his computer.

The maximum penalty for possession of objectionable material is 5 years prison. This was increased from a maximum fine of \$2,000 in 2005. Maximum penalties for making, trading and distributing objectionable images were also increased in 2005 from 1 year in prison to 10 years.

While ECPAT NZ welcomed and encouraged the increase in penalties for child pornography offences, we question whether they are being applied to full effect. Given that it was Dean Cooper's second conviction of this kind and the DIA investigation of his laptop and hard drives revealed that he had been downloading pictures of child sexual abuse since 2003, we believe the penalty needed to be harsher.

A sentence of less than 2 ½ years does not send a strong enough message to deter this type of serious reoffending, considering the possession of objectionable material is not a victimless crime. The reality is that every image downloaded or traded represents the actual sexual abuse of a child.

**Media Contact:**

**Nikki Trask, Media Officer, ECPAT NZ**

**Ph: (09) 376 5252; Mob: (021) 826 136; Email: [media@ecpat.org.nz](mailto:media@ecpat.org.nz)**