

Press Release

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What About The Innocent Children?

A Manawatu man convicted of possessing and distributing hundreds of thousands of child sex abuse images has had his name suppressed and was sentenced to four months home detention.

“The sentencing is at the lower end of the law and does not truly reflect on the serious nature of the offence” says Alan Bell, Director of ECPAT Child Alert. “The awful reality is that real children were abused and raped to provide this material and their lives have been ruined by people who trade and make profit from their suffering.”

The judge commented that the name suppression was warranted on this occasion as the offender has experienced severe consequences already from his offences. Mr. Bell comments “The combination of name suppression and a light sentence does not indicate that this crime is taken seriously enough. The children have suffered and will continue to suffer as their images are on the Internet forever. There should be a sterner approach to stop this trading of children as sex commodities and offenders should take the full cost of their part in exploiting innocent children.”

ECPAT Child Alert is a registered New Zealand NGO working to prevent the sexual exploitation of children through child prostitution, child pornography and child trafficking.

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