



Protecting Children
Everywhere

Return to Sender

British child sex offenders abroad - why more must be done

ECPAT UK is the national representative of ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes), a global movement in over 70 countries.

ECPAT UK represents a coalition of leading charities within the UK including: Anti-Slavery International, Jubilee Campaign, NSPCC, Save the Children UK, The Children's Society, UNICEF UK, and World Vision UK.

ECPAT UK works to campaign, research, deliver training and work with all sectors of the community to raise awareness about the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

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Editing: Alice Macek
Layout and design: Farrah Bokhari
ECPAT UK



ECPAT UK
Grosvenor Gardens House
35 – 37 Grosvenor Gardens
London SW1W 0BS
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7233 9887
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7233 9869
Email: info@ecpat.org.uk
Website: www.ecpat.org.uk

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Christine Beddoe
ECPAT UK
2008

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In August 2006 ECPAT UK published a landmark report called 'The End of The Line for Child Exploitation' which exposed gaps in UK legislation and policy on the sexual abuse of children by British nationals who travel abroad.

Now, in 2008, we revisit some of these issues to see whether children are any safer today than they were two years ago. As this report will show, the UK law enforcement response to child sex tourism falls well short of our expectations. Britain has an excellent international reputation for its robust approach to child protection but when we turn our eyes to the abuse of children by British nationals who travel abroad the story is quite different and the UK compares poorly against other countries with similar legal frameworks such as Australia and the United States.

This report will focus on what must be done to bring these offenders back to Britain to be placed on the Sex Offenders Register and be managed and risk assessed in the same way as if they had offended in the UK. To illustrate the key points we have put a spotlight on Thailand. Contrary to some reports the popularity of Thailand as a destination for British sex offenders is just as high today as it was 10 years ago.

The case below illustrates the need for major improvements in the way British authorities are fulfilling their international obligations to protect children.

Maurice is 77 years old and was arrested in Thailand in March 2008 for abusing an 8 year old boy. He denied the charges. However, since the 1990s Maurice has been arrested by the Thai authorities 6 times for child sexual offences and in one case was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment.

In March 2007 Maurice walked out of court on bail of £8,000 on charges of abusing two Thai girls aged 9 and 11. He was already on bail waiting for an appeal of sentence for raping two girls in 2001 when this arrest was made.

As early as 1991 Maurice paid £800 to a Thai couple for their 12 year old daughter so he could marry her. The girl ran away after a few weeks.

He preys on vulnerable children and has done so for many years. In Thailand, like elsewhere in Asia, the elderly are highly respected and he has used this to get access to children. The British authorities know about his record in Thailand.

Although claims about corruption and bribery inevitably place foreign authorities under scrutiny ECPAT UK also asks the question about why the UK authorities have been slow in taking action to prevent reoffending when the offender is known to both countries. Maurice is not a Thai national – he is a British national and he can leave and come back to the UK any time, or go elsewhere. He is not employed in

Thailand and he may even be getting a pension from the British government.

For over 20 years the British authorities have spent vast resources on training foreign police forces on combating child sexual abuse. This contribution to global efforts is welcome, however to think of it as our country's main strategy to combat the problem is to ignore the landscape of international sex offending where poverty, corruption, contacts and power are not simply diminished by the participation of hand picked individuals attending training workshops.

ECPAT UK questions the role of British diplomatic missions such as Embassies and Consulates and why the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have a consistent policy around the globe on pro-active liaison with foreign governments at the time of arrest on cases of child sexual abuse.

To expect the Thai, and other, authorities to spend their limited resources over and over again on surveillance and monitoring of British offenders that we knowingly turn away from is disingenuous and counter to the spirit of international cooperation on child protection. If Maurice was in the UK he would be placed on the UK Sex Offenders Register and be subject to stringent risk assessment and management under the UK MAPPA system (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements).

In this report ECPAT UK is calling on the government to immediately review its strategy to prevent, detect and manage British nationals who abuse children abroad. Central to this is to reverse the ideology that if abuse happens overseas then we should simply let the governments 'over there' deal with it. This now very tired mantra must be challenged.

In order to do this ECPAT UK recommends the following:

1. Develop stronger bi-lateral cooperation agreements with relevant countries;
2. Develop joint investigation teams with other national law enforcement agencies;
3. Construct agreements with foreign governments to deport and chaperone convicted offenders back to the UK after sentencing to be placed on the Sex Offenders Register;
4. An immediate review of the MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) model to be more inclusive of the context of abuse in other countries;
5. An immediate review of the use and effectiveness of Foreign Travel Orders (FTOs) to restrict travel for high risk sex offenders or consider other models.

2. INTRODUCTION

The sexual abuse of children by British nationals who travel abroad has been entrenched over many, many years. ECPAT UK was first developed as an organisation in 1993 to campaign for the introduction of British laws against child sex tourism and was successful in getting new legislation introduced under the Sex Offenders Act of 1997. Since then on-going campaigns and new legislation have continued to strengthen the legal armoury within the UK. However one thing is certain and that is the long standing ethos that stands behind past and current British policy on implementation of legislation to combat child sex tourism has failed the most vulnerable children.

The overarching principle underpinning UK government policy that it is better to have the offender arrested and dealt with in the country where the offence takes place has created a blind-spot for British law enforcement and the public at large. Less than half a dozen cases have been prosecuted in the UK since 1997 compared with over 65 cases in the USA and 28 in Australia.

ECPAT UK entirely supports the 'first country first' principle from the perspective of minimising distress to child witnesses and avoiding bringing them to British courts. However, now that extra-territorial legislation has been in place for over ten years we are no closer to preventing child sex tourism and this is supported by case evidence across the globe. British sex offenders have been prosecuted in countries such as Ghana, Dominican Republic, Sri Lanka, India, Romania, and the Czech Republic but also in Sweden, France and Spain. Moreover, the legislation has not had the desired impact as a prevention tool as was originally thought. In principle the law should not be used simply for sending messages to would-be offenders, but with only a handful of convictions in the UK it has not had the deterrent effect as was first thought when the Bill was going through Parliament.

ECPAT UK has collected data on over 120 British nationals who have been arrested or convicted abroad for sexual abuse of children since the early 1990s. Since ECPAT UK launched our 2006 report over 25 British nationals have been arrested by foreign police forces for child sex offences. ECPAT UK welcomes the increase in detection of sex offenders although we are concerned about what happens in the twilight zone of international jurisdictions when the offender chooses not to come back to the UK or chooses not to have British consular assistance.

Knowledge about overseas offending is quite low amongst child protection professionals in the UK and across the general public. The media only ever cover the most sensational or celebrity driven cases and there is a general malaise about the many British offenders who have been charged with sexual offences in schools and orphanages around

the world. Little is spoken about the risk to British children when offenders finally return to the UK. There is the perception amongst the public that if someone commits an offence abroad they are automatically put on the UK Sex Offenders Register – which is not the case. Having monitored numerous cases over many years ECPAT UK now sees a clear pattern with repeat offenders travelling from country to country and flagrantly avoiding the stringent sex offender management mechanisms in the UK.

Since our 2006 report was published a number of the recommendations have been taken up by government and we are very pleased to see this progress. In July 2008 the government withdrew 'dual criminality' from the Sexual Offences Act (2003). This was a major campaign call from ECPAT UK and means that a British national can be prosecuted in the UK for offences abroad, even if the offence is not a crime in the country where the offence took place. Ministers have also announced their intention to close the 'three day loophole' making it compulsory for registered sex offenders to notify all foreign travel where at the moment they only have to notify if they intend to travel more than 3 days. These are significant legal changes but as history has shown, having the law is one thing and using it is another.

ECPAT UK would also like to see a major national public awareness campaign in the UK about the prevention and reporting of child sex tourism. This should be supported by a free international telephone hotline and a real-time online reporting mechanism. Such campaigns are now prevalent around the world.

The Australian national campaign developed as a partnership between police and the Australian ECPAT group (Child Wise) over many years has been a major success story. It includes an online suspicious behaviour reporting form on the police website, free telephone hotline and major advertising campaign, including TV advertising. The reporting process encourages the general public to be responsible and take action. It has also kept the profile of child sex tourism high on the public agenda for over ten years.

Good Practice - Australia



Child Sex Tourism

Suspicious Behaviour Report

If a child is in danger, **do not** use this form – contact your local Police Service directly.

Any information you provide will be kept confidential.

We encourage you to provide your **contact details**, so that we can follow up on your report.

* indicates **mandatory** field - complete this information to submit the form.

Note: This form is designed to enable members of the public to provide relevant information to assist the Australian Federal Police. For general or media enquiries please refer to the [AFP contact information page](#) for relevant AFP business areas.

Incident location information

Time and Date of incident*

(If time and date are unknown please indicate a time period relevant to the information)

Location*

(Please indicate in as much detail as possible the location that the suspicious behaviour was observed. Include details of the Country and Region if applicable)

Report of suspicious behaviour

Details of incident*

(Include a description or identifying information of any child involved, if applicable)

Suspicious person/s*

(Include any description or identifying information regarding the suspicious person/s)

Your contact details (optional)

First name/s

Surname/given name

Contact telephone number

Phone type

Contact email address

If you have any difficulties in completing this form online please print the [Suspicious behaviour report form \(PDF, 28kB\)](#) to submit information by fax or post.

(Accessed 14 August 2008 from website: https://www.afp.gov.au/online_forms/cst_form.html)

3. SPOTLIGHT ON THAILAND

As with any country the majority of people who sexually abuse children or exploit children in prostitution in Thailand are local people. However, ask anyone on the street and they will point out Thailand as the first place they think of when you mention sex tourism. The beginnings of sex tourism in Thailand are unquestionably linked to the presence of foreign military on rest and recreation leave during the Vietnam War. The dominant pattern of liaisons between Thai girls and foreign men began with the arrival of American military in 1962, many of whom had mistresses, referred to as 'hired wives'. Along with the huge influx of American GIs stationed in Thailand came the influx of bars, nightclubs, and massage parlours now synonymous with Thai tourist zones such as Patpong and Pattaya. Today, sex tourism in Thailand is part of a well established lucrative sex industry that includes prostitution, the production and distribution of pornography and human trafficking.

Pattaya is one of Thailand's premier beach resort areas. Located approximately 150 kilometres south-east of Bangkok, Pattaya beach lies on the Gulf of Thailand and is also known as one of Thailand's premier sex tourism destinations. Pattaya's sex industry has been the topic for many academic and media reports on sex tourism for over a decade. In 1994 an ECPAT report on 'Child Prostitution and Sex Tourism in Thailand', authors O'Connell Davidson and Sanchez Taylor wrote "For these young men Pattaya is a kind of macho theme park with beer, motorbikes, ago-go bars, kick-boxing, live sex shows, pool tables in English style pubs and guaranteed access to dolly birds to posture with and have sex"¹ Pattaya still has this image today with many tourists seeking sun, sea, sand and sex and attracting large numbers of expatriates with homes and businesses in the area.

Along with adult sex tourism Pattaya has also attracted large numbers of individuals who sexually abuse children. Some of these are paedophile offenders who intentionally and obsessively seek out young children while others are there to seek sexual gratification and don't care how they get it. The Thai authorities have been criticised over many years for corruption and tolerance of sex tourism in Pattaya. Over the past ten years the Thai laws have been strengthened and from time to time the Thai police do a sweep of foreign sex offenders to clean up the resort town. However, there are always new offenders who replace those ones who get deported and then there are those who bribe their way back. Between 1997 and July 2001, The Pattaya Mail newspaper reported the arrests or detainment of fifteen foreign tourists relating to child sex offences. These included Australian, American, French, German and a handful of British nationals.

.....Pattaya police were called at 2:30 a.m. on 30 November to investigate what the caller described as "a foreigner taking a boy no older than 12 years up to his

hotel room". The incident was taking place at a hotel on Soi 10 off of Pattaya 2 Road. Police had hotel staff accompany a group of officers to the room and opened the door with spare keys, but entry was prohibited as the door was chain fastened. Police knocked and the occupant opened the door and turned the lights on. Police saw that a 10-year-old boy was sleeping on the bed. The man was identified from his Swiss passport. (10/12/99 Pattaya Mail 'Swiss pedophile arrested')

...three foreigners residing in Pattaya were involved with sexually abusing two girls, aged 10 and 11, on three different occasions. The officials from Bangkok were notified by a concerned resident who told them the two girls were taken out of school on Fridays by Mrs. R, a relative, who contacted foreigners to sell the girls for sexual activities. The two young girls described being paid 1,000 baht each on the three different occasions by the foreigners, and they witnessed Mrs. R receiving another 1,000 baht at the same time. (24/12/99 Pattaya Mail 'Foreigners arrested for sexually abusing two young girls')

....An elderly Australian, infected with HIV who taught deaf children in Pattaya, Thailand was jailed [in Australia] for nine years for more than 800 child sex offences. ...He first visited Asia in 1980 and had spent most of the past six years in Thailand, teaching at a school for deaf children. He plied his young victims with alcohol and gifts. (2/5/97 Bangkok Post 'Australian jailed for 800 sex crimes')

1. O'Connell Davidson, J., Sanchez Taylor, J. (1994) 'Child Prostitution and Sex Tourism in Thailand'. ECPAT International. p2. http://www.ecpat.net/eng/ecpat_inter/Publication/Other/English/Pdf_page/ecpat_sex_tourism_thailand.pdf

Over the last few years various reports have shown that British sex offenders have been travelling elsewhere. Arrests in countries such as Cambodia, India, Sri Lanka, Ghana and closer to home in Eastern Europe have led to the misperception that Thailand is no longer a place of interest for British sex offenders.

However, ECPAT UK research and monitoring has shown that since the publication of our 2006 report there have been at least 15 arrests of British nationals in Thailand, many of them in Pattaya. In June 2008 the Pattaya Mail newspaper reported senior Thai police as saying that they had been appointed to arrest foreigners who were committing lewd acts with youngsters less than 15 years of age. The Police Major went on to say "There are approximately 200 of them that need to be cleaned out of Thailand within seven days, and blacklisted from re-entering."²

The Pattaya Mail English language newspaper, long known for its commitment to exposing child sexual exploitation, has kindly given us permission to reproduce its news stories on some of these cases at the time of arrest. These can be found at the back of this report. These arrests, along with that of Maurice, show that British sex offenders are targeting this well known Thai tourist destination just as they have always done.

2. Pattaya Mail newspaper Vol. XVI No. 22 May 30 - June 5, 2008.

4. THE LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE

The UK response to how these individuals are managed and risk assessed is not at all clear. There appears to be a dividing line between whether the offender is already wanted in the UK – in which case there appears to be a strategy in place and willingness by British authorities to initiate cooperation with counterparts – and then where the offender has never hit the radar in the UK before. They are therefore of no interest to law enforcement in the UK and we go into a very grey area, allowing sex offenders to remain the responsibility of foreign jurisdictions.

The UK, through the work of CEOP, the Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Centre, has strongly promoted the phrase 'travelling sex offender' to describe those who travel abroad and abuse children. ECPAT UK generally agrees with this although it does focus the work of British policing on the known registered sex offenders who have travelled – rather than individuals without a record who have travelled and subsequently abused children abroad. Although this may seem pedantic, the achievements in policing travelling sex offenders over the past two years have been driven by the tracking of known sex offenders who have absconded from the UK and who have been brought back to the UK on extradition warrants. Achievements in policing British nationals abroad who are not registered sex offenders are few and far between as evidenced by the fact there have been no prosecutions under Section 72 of the Sexual Offences Act (2003) for crimes committed abroad in the past 3 years.

In ECPAT UK's discussions with individual law enforcement officers it is often said how challenging they think it would be to use Section 72 because of international cooperation and evidentiary issues. Yet, the increasing number of extradition requests for British sex offenders wanted in connection with abusing children in the UK has yielded good cooperation in a number of countries in the last two years. Arrests of wanted British offenders have been made by the Czech police, the Spanish police, the Thai police, and the Azerbaijan police showing that it is possible to work collaboratively to achieve results. (See examples in Appendix 2.)

Of particular note is the excellent cooperation and response to one British offender arrested in 2007 by Thai police upon the notification of UK authorities. CEOP, the UK's specialist law enforcement response to travelling sex offenders, promoted through its website that:

"The arrest forms part of an ongoing investigation initiated when in 2003 the man breached his notification requirements under the Sex Offenders Register. Intelligence reports received in August 2007 indicated that the man had fled to Thailand and may be a risk to children. CEOP's Overseas Tracker Team picked up the case and a joint operation was launched alongside the Royal Thai Police – one of a number

of collaborative programmes currently running in partnership with the RTP to deter and prevent British nationals travelling to South East Asia to abuse children".³

However, on other cases the response is less than adequate.

In 1998 a British teacher working with children in Thailand pleaded guilty in a Thai court to sexually abusing a number of boys, all under 15 years of age, and received a sentence of 33 years. In 2001 the Thai authorities decreased his sentence and he was deported back to the UK. Since 2001 he has continued to travel to and from the UK taking up various teaching posts in developing countries. Research by ECPAT UK in July 2008 showed him listed on the internet with his photo as an English teacher at a school in China providing classes to children as young as 5 years old. ECPAT UK has passed on this information to the British authorities but we are extremely concerned that there is not the same type of law enforcement interest or international cooperation when the offences have been committed abroad.

3. http://www.ceop.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2007/ceop_30102007_02.asp

5. VETTING AND BARRING

ECPAT UK's 2006 report 'The End of the Line for Child Exploitation' exposed the high number of British sex offenders who travel abroad to get access to children by working in schools, orphanages and with children's charities. Currently, schools and organisations abroad have no mechanism for undertaking pre-employment checks for checking the suitability of working with children through UK criminal records or other sources. This is a major gap in the protection of vulnerable children.

In the UK we have a system in place for pre-employment checks through the Criminal Records Bureau and a new system for vetting those who seek to work with children was introduced in the 2006 Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act. This new law laid the foundations for a more robust system of vetting and barring arrangements and followed the recommendations identified by the 2004 Bichard Inquiry arising from the Soham murders. Recommendation 19 of the Bichard Inquiry Report says: 'new arrangements should be introduced requiring those who wish to work with children, or vulnerable adults, to be registered. The register would confirm that there is no known reason why an individual should not work with these clients'.⁴

These measures go beyond criminal records and through an independent authority will build a more holistic approach by combining records from a number of sources to check suitability for working with children. It will not simply rely on whether someone has been convicted of a sexual offence. However, it is unclear how or if they will provide information to requests from international organisations, how they will integrate information sources from abroad and who will be eligible to submit that information.

In the government's 2006 regulatory impact assessment on assessing the new model of vetting and barring it states 'Data supplied by 122 of the 147 Local Education Authorities in England show that at least 2357 allegations of abuse were made against education staff between August 2003 and September 2004. The police investigated 26% of these, another 20% resulted in a formal disciplinary hearing and around 40% were resolved without formal disciplinary hearing or criminal action'.⁵

Dialogue is already underway across Europe about how systems should be harmonised across the European Union but much more work needs to be done to allow international orphanages, schools and charities to have access to the UK information systems for vetting and barring.

4. <http://www.bichardinquiry.org.uk/report>

5. [http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/_files/VetBarringSchemeFinalRegim-pctasesJuly06\).pdf](http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/_files/VetBarringSchemeFinalRegim-pctasesJuly06).pdf)

Pattaya, Thailand - May 2007

Under two warrants issued by Pattaya Provincial Court, police entered a house on May 6, where they found a notebook computer that contained nude photographs and photographs of sex acts with young boys. Two boys aged 12 and 14 identified RM as having committed sex acts against them. Tourist police arrested RM, 66, occupant of the house. Investigations revealed that RM, a former schoolteacher from England, had taken two underage boys to live with him at the house where the arrest was made.

Pattaya, Thailand - June 2008

Pattaya police arrested MF, a British man and a former university teacher in Bangkok. MF was charged with having sexual relations with boys under the age of 15 years. Police investigations revealed that the man had allegedly been paying 13-year-old boys from Pattaya city schools 500 baht for sexual services.

Beyond Thailand

In addition to the cases listed above there are numerous cases of British sex offenders before foreign courts at the time this report was being written. Below are a few examples of such cases.

ALBANIA	3 British nationals arrested for child sexual abuse in an orphanage.
GHANA	A British national, working in Ghana for a voluntary organisation convicted of sexual abuse of a three year old girl. Currently the case is under appeal.
INDIA	2 British nationals convicted in 2006 of child sexual abuse in an orphanage. Acquitted by the Bombay High Court in 2008. Currently an appeal is underway in the Supreme Court to challenge the High Court decision.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1 Develop stronger bi-lateral cooperation agreements with relevant countries

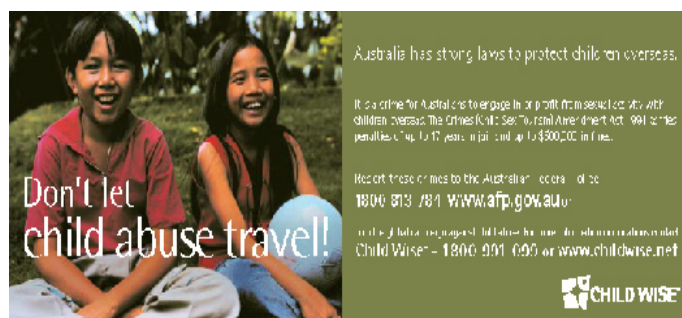
In September 2006 the British government hosted an international conference at the prestigious Wilton Park conference centre on 'Travelling Sex Offenders – OffLine Interests: OnLine Consequences.' The conference brought together a range of government, non-government, private sector and law enforcement specialists. The conference delegates reinforced the need for greater bilateral and international cooperation across all sectors. Of particular note was the commitment by CEOP to building a website within 6-9 months for NGOs to pass on vital information about sex offenders and to include a process for law enforcement to feedback to NGOs. Sadly this has not been realised. However, NGOs around the globe are increasingly sharing vital information on concerns about sex offenders. This has become a lifeline for organisations in developing countries to get information to the offender's home country within hours of the crime being reported so that police can be notified. It is ironic that governments often bogged down by bureaucracy and data protection rules cannot act so swiftly and are now relying on NGOs to do this work where international policing fails.

Through this report ECPAT UK is calling on the government to establish cooperation agreements with a wide range of countries similar to the new bi-lateral agreement with the Philippines, made earlier this year. These agreements should also extend to the NGOs who often shadow the local law enforcement in countries where government infrastructure is weak. The building of trust and knowledge between countries within a cooperation framework is the start of developing a more proactive response to combating child sexual abuse by Britons who travel abroad. However, cooperation agreements must be based on solid foundations of rights and responsibilities to protect children and not just to provide technical assistance such as training for law enforcement. Capacity building cannot be effective if it is implemented in a policy vacuum.

Good Practice - Australia

Australia signed a number of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with countries in Asia, the Pacific and South America to facilitate efforts combating child sex offences. Through these MOUs, international cooperation, information exchange and capacity-building programs have enhanced efforts to identify and investigate those involved in the sexual exploitation of children. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) supports local law enforcement efforts by providing investigative assistance, forensic support, computer forensics and international liaison.

The AFP is an active partner in the efforts of Australian government agencies, departments and non-government organisations (NGOs) to combat child sex offences. Child Wise is a non-government organisation that is the Australian arm of ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes). Child Wise initiated an advertising campaign called 'Don't Let Child Abuse Travel'. AFP Commissioner Mick Keelty launched this campaign and there is a link from the AFP website to allow members of the public to report suspected child sex offenders. *Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2007-2008.*



Australia has strong laws to protect children overseas.

It is a crime for Australians to engage in or profit from sexual activities with children overseas. The Crimes (Child Sexual Abuse) Act 1991 sets penalties of up to 17 years in jail and up to \$300,000 in fines.

Report these crimes to the Australian Consulate in
1800 813 781 www.afp.gov.au

For more information, contact Child Wise by email info@childwise.net or
Child Wise - 1800 991 699 or www.childwise.net

CHILD WISE

2 Develop joint investigation teams with other national law enforcement agencies

The UK has achieved some success with joint investigations related to on-line child abuse images, most recently through the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) and this has proven that a model of international cooperation can be both a powerful tool and a useful forum for dialogue and learning. However, the UK does not have the same level of resources committed to joint investigations into child sexual abuse when the offences involve British nationals abroad.

Australia has achieved a much higher level of success by having Australian Federal Police based in a number of countries under cooperation agreements with a specific mandate to work together with their law enforcement colleagues from other countries on joint investigations. The USA has a specific strategy to bring US offenders back to the USA to prosecute under the child sex tourism provisions of the US PROTECT Act and work collaboratively with their international counterparts to achieve success. Both countries have increased prosecutions and convictions using these strategies. The UK does have police liaison officers in some countries but not with a dedicated child protection investigation focus.

Good practice - Australia

A key strategy in the AFP's fight against transnational crime is the AFP's International Network comprising 86 officers in 33 cities in 27 countries around the world, with an additional office (New Delhi), pending approval from the Government of India. At the end of the reporting period, the AFP was conducting 57 investigations into extra-territorial child sex offences with 11 matters before the courts or having prosecution briefs prepared. The AFP's investigations instigated 28 prosecutions, resulting in 18 convictions and two matters before court.

Australian Federal Police Annual Report 2007-2008

Good Practice - USA

Working cooperatively with foreign governments through ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) attaché offices worldwide, ICE agents have made more than 67 arrests under the child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act. Of those, 47 have been convicted and others are still being prosecuted. For example, on February 21st, 2007, Steven Eric Prowler pleaded guilty to federal charges of travelling abroad with the intent to have sex with a minor and to engaging in illicit sexual conduct with minors in another country. Prowler was deported from Thailand after serving one year in a Thai prison for sexual encounters with approximately 100 underage Thai boys. Thai officials and ICE agents investigated the case and discovered detailed journals kept by Prowler of his sexual encounters with underage boys in Thailand, Cambodia and Mexico. Prowler was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison.

Department of Homeland Security - Operation Predator Fact Sheet January 2008. <http://www.ice.gov/pi/news/factsheets/070607operationpredator.htm>

3 Construct agreements with foreign governments to deport and chaperone convicted offenders back to the UK to be placed on the Sex Offenders Register

The UK Sex Offenders Register contains the details of anyone convicted, cautioned or released from prison for a sexual offence against children or adults since it was set up in September 1997. In 2006 this was amended to include other crimes with a sexual motive. Under the Sex Offenders Act 1997, as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 2003, all convicted sex offenders must register with the police within three days of their conviction or release from prison. This is monitored by the police, who receive notification from the courts following conviction, and both the prisons and probation service following an offender's release into the community. Failure to register is an offence which can carry a term of imprisonment. Under Section 86 of the Sexual Offences Act (2003) registrants must inform the police if they plan to travel abroad for 3 days or more. ECPAT UK has been lobbying to close this 3 day loophole and government ministers have recently an-

nounced their intention to close the loophole so all foreign travel will be notified. A common misperception by the general public is that British sex offenders who are convicted abroad automatically go on the UK Sex Offenders Register. This is not the case. Indeed, it is possible for a British sex offender to be prosecuted abroad for a range of different offences and for the British authorities never to know because the system of reporting the prosecution or conviction to the UK is not mandatory between governments. It relies heavily on the role of British Embassies and missions abroad and even then they do not necessarily have to know about the case. This is another reason why bilateral cooperation agreements are so important.

Under Section 97 of the Sexual Offences Act (2003) police have the power to apply to the Magistrates court for an order making a cautioned or convicted offender subject to notification requirements for a relevant offence abroad, in other words – to go on the Sex Offenders Register – even if not convicted. However, under the current rules the sex offender must be in the UK to go to the court hearing.

While some offenders may choose to return immediately to the UK, history has shown that a large number of sex offenders either stay in the same country or they move to another, avoiding coming back to the UK and being monitored as a registered sex offender. This is why a new system of cooperation on offender management is needed and must start from the period before they are released from custody. In other words, British law enforcement agencies and diplomatic staff must start the process as soon as the individual is arrested abroad so that the case can be recorded, monitored and managed from the outset. While this process has been evident in one or two high profile cases it is far from being the norm and so it must be put on a mandatory footing.

Long-haul destination flights, such as those from Vietnam, do not always fly direct to the UK and to avoid offenders absconding on a stop-over it is essential to have law enforcement or diplomatic chaperones (from either country) escort the individual back to the UK. This is not unusual practice and a number of countries around the world already have these agreements in place with the host country.

Cambodia - PB

Derbyshire, UK: In September 2004 PB was sentenced to three years and nine months for offences against children and downloading child abuse images in the UK. PB was placed on the Sex Offenders Register but fled from a bail hostel in Derby in February 2006.

Cambodia: In January 2007 PB was arrested by Cambodian police for sexual offences against Cambodian children. He had been teaching English to children whilst living in Cambodia.

In June 2007 PB was acquitted of charges in the Cambodian court because the child witnesses (age 12 and 14) decided not to testify against him. At this time PB made his intentions very public that he wanted to stay in Cambodia.

In September 2007 ECPAT UK wrote to the Home Office Minister bringing the case to the attention of the Government. ECPAT UK received a response back from the Minister and a letter from CEOP which stated:

"...(PB) is wanted for recall to prison in the UK, having gone missing while on licence. There is no question of PB's presence in another country being condoned by UK law enforcement. The issue is that PB can only be forcibly returned to UK if we have the powers to do so. As there is not an extradition agreement with Cambodia, this is not easy. Negotiating a one off extradition in such circumstances is fraught with difficulty". CEOP goes on to say that "We would agree that the management of PB's risk to children is best achieved in the UK. Cambodian law enforcement, however, have been made fully aware of PB's risk."

ONE YEAR LATER.....

August 2008: PB is still in Cambodia – teaching. There is no available evidence to suggest the UK authorities have tried to bring PB back to the UK.

Two other British nationals have been charged in Cambodia over the last few years and those cases have also been acquitted and the individuals not deported. However the Cambodian authorities have recently succeeded in convicting a number of foreign sex offenders.

4 An immediate review of the MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements) model to be more inclusive of the context of abuse in other countries

In 2001 England and Wales introduced a system for the assessment and management of risk posed by violent and sexual offenders in the community, known as MAPPA. Although MAPPA is the framework for cooperation between British police and probation it also draws together the work of a number of criminal justice agencies, together with social care agencies such as health, social services and housing, in order to reduce serious offending, minimise serious harm to the public and assist in the early detection of repeat offenders. The 2003 MAPPA guidance states that 'Effective multi-agency public protection starts with the efficient identification of relevant offenders. Prompt and accurate identification will allow agencies to gather and share relevant information and enable them to choose the appropriate risk management strategies. Without this initial accuracy there are real dangers that important information is not gathered and shared or shared inappropriately, and the energy of agencies diverted from those offenders posing the highest risk of serious harm'.⁶

The MAPPA Framework comprises four core functions:

- (i) the identification of offenders;
- (ii) the sharing of relevant information among those agencies involved in the assessment of that risk;
- (iii) the assessment of the risk of serious harm; and,
- (iv) the management of that risk.

The 2007 MAPPA Guidance contains the following paragraph:

'The primary focus of MAPPA is how to manage the risk and behaviour of the offender but specific and general victim issues are also central to the effective operation of MAPPA. Victim safety, preventing re-victimisation and avoiding the creation of new victims is fundamental to MAPPA's fulfilment of its public protection role. It is vital that MAPPA ensures its decision making is informed by an effective engagement with current victims and, where practicable and appropriate, with potential victims.'⁷

However, the 2007 MAPPA guidance falls well short on providing guidance for how to manage and risk assess British offenders who have been charged or convicted abroad – or – for individuals who have offended in the UK and the risk they pose to children abroad. There is no mention of working with foreign law enforcement agencies and no mention

of working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The only significant mention is the following paragraph in the 129 page document:

'A very small subset of registered Critical Public Protection Cases will require some kind of national co-ordination, sponsored by the PPU. These are exceptional cases where the resettlement represents a very high risk both to individual (public, victims, staff or offender) and there is organisational risk due to exceptional public interest and scrutiny. *This subset also includes cases that are categorised as very high risk offenders being returned from abroad, who have no particular connections with any specific area within England and Wales, and there is a clear need for a robust risk management plan to enhance public safety.*⁸ [emphasis added by ECPAT UK]

ECPAT UK sees how MAPPA has the intention to address sex offenders for crimes committed abroad but it is wholly lacking in detail to provide sufficient guidance on this type of offending.

DEFENSIBLE DECISION MAKING

The MAPPA guidance draws upon a foundation of good practice developed by Professor Hazel Kemshall, in which she states that public protection depends upon:

- (i) defensible decisions;
- (ii) rigorous risk assessment;
- (iii) the delivery of risk management plans which match the identified public protection need; and,
- (iv) the evaluation of performance to improve delivery.

(Home Office Probation circular 25/2003 31st March 2003.)

The concept of defensible decision making is a useful starting point to understand where things have gone so far wrong with the identification, assessment and management of individuals who have abused children abroad.

According to Professor Kemshall the idea of defensible decisions is not about defensiveness: it is intended to embed risk assessment with rigor and risk management with robustness. Kemshall summarised its criteria as:

8. 2007 MAPPA Guidance p.69-70

6. 2003 MAPPA Guidance p.16.

7. 2007 MAPPA Guidance p.16.

- reliable assessment methods have been used;
- information has been collected and thoroughly evaluated;
- decisions are recorded (and subsequently carried out);
- policies and procedures have been followed; and,
- practitioners and their managers adopt an investigative approach and are proactive.

With the current weaknesses that ECPAT UK has identified in this and earlier reports it is hard to imagine how police and other public protection agencies can apply the model of defensible decision making to sex offenders who prey on children abroad. This only goes to reinforce ECPAT UK's call for a complete overhaul of the management of British nationals who offend against children while working overseas or as tourists.

5 An immediate review of the use and effectiveness of Foreign Travel Orders (FTOs) to restrict travel for high risk sex offenders, and consider other models

Section 114 of the Sexual Offences Act (2003) provides for a civil, preventative order called a Foreign Travel Order or FTO. An FTO enables the courts to prohibit persons who are 'qualifying offenders' (those guilty of sexual offences against a child under 16, either in the UK or abroad) from travelling abroad. An FTO may be made on application to a Magistrates court. If issued it will place a prohibition on a sex offender from travelling abroad either to a named country or to anywhere in the world apart from a named country. The court may make a Foreign Travel Order in respect of such a person if their behaviour makes an order necessary to protect children or a particular child from serious sexual harm from the person outside the UK. Currently, an FTO can be varied, renewed or discharged at any time, but will be in force for a specified period (not more than 6 months).

In the 2006 ECPAT UK report 'The End of the Line for Child Exploitation' we also called on the government to review the effectiveness of FTOs citing only 2 had been issued. Again, we raise this as a priority because this is the only tool the UK currently has available to prevent travel of high risk offenders and it is not being used by British law enforcement. ECPAT UK has been told by police on many occasions that it requires too much paperwork and it is unwieldy.

In stark contrast the UK has been very effective at preventing travel by so-called football hooligans. The introduction of new laws in 2000, called the Football (Disorder) Act gave police the power, through a similar civil order, to restrict international travel to British nationals who were known to cause violence and disrupt football matches around the world. The travel order requires known individuals to surrender their passports to police stations before a major international event.

A 2005 Home Office report to Parliament on the effectiveness of the Football (Disorder) Act 2000 stated:

"[9.1] Football Banning Orders played a major part in minimising the risk of disorder during Euro 2004. In total 2,370 known troublemakers were prevented from travelling to the tournament by virtue of their banning orders. This represents a significant increase on the 105 prevented from travelling to Euro 2000 and the 1,053 prevented from travelling to 2002 World Cup in Japan and Korea.

[9.2] As of 26th September 2005, the total number of banning orders had risen to 3,139 of which 386 were made under the section 14B complaint procedure. In terms of the total number of banning orders, it is important to remember that orders are time limited (between 2 and 10 years) and that existing orders lapse as new ones are imposed by the courts.

[9.3] Football banning orders are a preventative civil measure designed to prevent repeat misbehavior. This is the case irrespective of the judicial route. They are not intended as a penalty and do not form part of any sentence or court decision for any previous wrongdoing. Renewal orders are only sought, therefore, if there is evidence that the subject continues to pose a risk of violence or disorder at football matches.

[9.4] During the tournament, banning order subjects were required to report to a designated police station five days before the tournament commenced and surrender their passports. They were also asked to report to a police station

on England match days to confirm that they had not attempted to travel in breach of their banning order conditions.⁹

The government has shown it does not have a moral or legal objection to banning travel for those who seek to cause harm to others and yet the UK has only ever issued 3 FTOs for child sex offenders compared to over 3000 for football hooligans. There is something fundamentally wrong about the current attitude to risk and harm to children abroad when these figures are shown side by side.

If the administration or evidence requirements for the FTOs are a blockage for police then it must be immediately reviewed in light of the robust risk assessment and management measures within the MAPPA framework.

Travel Restrictions - Australia

In 2005 the Australian Government amended the Australian Passport Act to allow police to request a cancellation of passport for high risk sex offenders. In a report to the Australian Parliament in 2007 the Australian Federal Police (AFP) gave the following information in their submission on new amendments to combat child sex tourism.

“The AFP has made a number of applications for passport cancellations and refusals relating to convicted travelling sex offenders in accordance with section 14 (reasons relating to potential for harmful conduct) of the Australian Passports Act 2005 (the Act), resulting in the Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the AFP’s request, refusing to issue a passport to one individual, and to cancel and refuse to issue a passport to ten others.”

http://www.aph.gov.au/SENATE/COMMITTEE/legcon_ctte/completed_inquiries/2004-07/child/submissions/afp_qon_9_13_answers.pdf

The AFP submission goes on to discuss challenges in implementation but ECPAT UK considers it extremely healthy that these issues have been discussed before a parliamentary inquiry on this subject.

⁹ Football (Disorder) Act 2000 Report to Parliament p2.
<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Football-Disorder-2006.pdf?view=Binary>

7. CONCLUSION

Although some progress has been made since 2006, the UK still lags well behind Australia and the USA when it comes to prosecution of nationals for crimes against children committed abroad. The strategy, if there is one, for the prevention of child sex tourism has failed. The central problem lies in the long held, but un-proven, principle that it is better for British sex offenders to be prosecuted in the countries where the offence takes place. Only five Britons have been prosecuted under British extra-territorial laws since 1997, and none since 2005, for sexually abusing children abroad. Over the last two years dozens of British nationals have been arrested abroad under the laws of other countries, but many of these charges do not result in a custodial sentence. Repeat offenders often stay in the same country, or travel to other countries avoiding UK sex offender management arrangements. The result is that the British government has a very weak grip on the risks posed by British nationals abroad and may not even know when the offender slips back into the UK. This increases the risk to British children.

In this report ECPAT UK has focused on the need to re-shape what must be done when a British national is arrested for crimes against children abroad. Increased bi-lateral cooperation is essential, but it must be cooperation that extends to joint investigations, information sharing, and building trust along with practical technical assistance. Earlier this year the UK government signed the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and committed to ratification as soon as possible. This will place new obligations on the UK to fully cooperate with international partners on the prevention of sexual exploitation of children wherever it occurs.

Capacity building for foreign police is not good value for money if it is done in a policy vacuum; it must be coupled with long term joint impact assessments to identify whether it is making a difference. UK law enforcement agencies are not using Foreign Travel Orders, the key tool available to them to prevent re-offending abroad. This must be looked at more closely along with a comprehensive review of the MAPPA framework on international sex offending behaviours. However, the most immediate need is to initiate a new offender management policy to return offenders to the UK with a chaperone after sentencing, or earlier on agreement with foreign governments, so they are duly placed on the Sex Offenders Register to be risk assessed and managed in the UK. Then, and only then, will the UK send a strong message that we will not tolerate the sexual abuse of children anywhere.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

Thailand 2006 – 2008

The following new stories have been reported in The Pattaya Mail newspaper. The editorial team at the newspaper have kindly allowed us to reproduce them for this report.

MF

Former teacher faces charges of molesting underage boys

Pattaya police have arrested a British man who was a former university teacher in Bangkok and charged him with having sexual relations with boys under the age of 15 years. Police investigations revealed that the man had allegedly been paying 13-year-old boys from Pattaya City schools 500 baht for sexual services. Having obtained search warrant number Gor 362 / 2551 and arrest warrant number 1259/2551 from Pattaya Provincial Court, police led by Pol Col Nopadol Wongnom at 5 p.m. on June 18 entered house number 333/5 on Soi Thappraya 10, the residence of MF, 68. MF was arrested and charged with committing obscene acts with boys under the age of 15 years. Police searched the three-story house and removed a computer that will be examined at Pattaya Police Station. Pol Col Nopadol said that a boy had been questioned in front of witnesses and social welfare officers. The boy had claimed MF paid him 500 baht for sex, and had taken him to a beer bar on Soi Sunee Plaza in South Pattaya. He alleged that MF had taken many other boys for the same reason, paying them 500 baht each time.

The Pattaya Mail, Thailand Vol. XVI No. 26, June 27 - July 3, 2008. Website: <http://www.pattayamail.com/778/news.shtml#hd8>

AG

British man faces charges of having sex with 15-year-old boy

The Children, Juveniles and Women's Division of the Royal Thai Police arrested a British citizen who paid a boy 1,000 baht for sex in a leased room in Pattaya. Officers from the division together with Pol Col Nopadol Wongnom, superintendent at Pattaya Police Station had gone to room number 301 at a guest house on Pratamnak Road in South Pattaya at 3:30 a.m. on May 23. The officers used a spare key to open the door to the room, where they found AG, a 46-year-old British citizen, unclothed and in bed with a 15-year-old boy given the alias of Nat. An agent had advised the police that AG had paid for Master Nat at a gay bar on Soi Sunee Plaza in South Pattaya, and had brought the boy to the room for sex. Nat claimed that AG had tricked him into coming to his room for sex. The foreigner had asked him to perform oral sex on him, and would give him 1,000 baht for it. The Children, Juveniles and Women's Division of the Royal Thai Police charged AG with having sex with a minor between 15 and 18 years of age.

The Pattaya Mail, Thailand Vol. XVI No. 22, May 30 - June 5, 2008. Website: <http://www.pattayamail.com/774/news.shtml#hd9>

MB & IT

Arrests continue as police crack down on foreign pedophiles

A number of foreign pedophiles have been arrested in a crackdown against those who visit Pattaya for sex with underage boys and girls. At the briefing it was stated that the police were aware of a number of foreigners that were buying sex with children under the age of 15, and that arrest warrants had been requested from the Pattaya Provincial Court.

Four arrests were announced during the briefing. The fourth warrant, dated May 18, was used to search a house in Moo 5, Soi Thepnimit, after investigations had indicated that the foreign owner of the house was frequently bringing boys in for lewd acts. It was a large luxury house well enclosed with a fence on an area of approximately one rai. In the house was a former cook named MB, a 65-year-old British national. He was sitting on a sofa in the living room with eight boys: two 14-year-olds, three age 17, and three age 19. Chalee Kengthanyakit, the 45-year-old manager of a bar located opposite Chulalongkorn Hospital was also in the house. In the bedroom the officers discovered a large amount of lubricant jelly, gamma-hydroxybutyric acid, condoms, and pornographic pictures of the boys. Chalee stated that he provided the boys to MB for sex. All of the boys had been in the house for five days. Some of them were brought from Bangkok, and others from Pattaya. The children received 1,000 baht for each night of service. MB claimed he was able to have sex with three of them per day. After the boys had completed a stay of seven days, they would be moved back to Bangkok or Pattaya. MB was charged with committing lewd acts with children less than 15 years of age, and

Chalee was charged with providing the children. Pol Maj Gen Panya said that he had been assigned by Pol Lt Gen Adisorn Nonsri, commander of Central Investigation to arrest foreigners who were committing lewd acts with youngsters less than 15 years of age. There are approximately 200 of them that need to be cleaned out of Thailand within seven days, and blacklisted from re-entering, he said. Pol Maj Gen Panya said that many foreign tourists come to Pattaya looking to have sex with young boys, and that it was difficult for the police to suppress this kind of activity because of the large numbers of vagabond children that need money to survive. The second case concerned a 12-year-old boy given the alias of Nam and a 10-year-old given the alias of Nung. Both stated that a foreigner from Sombat Village had hired them to provide sexual service orally, and that they received 500 or 900 baht each time. They went to see the man twice a day, in the morning and in the evening. Police obtained warrant number 756/2551 from Pattaya Provincial Court, and went to the house where they arrested IT, a 43-year-old British citizen.

The Pattaya Mail, Thailand Vol. XVI No. 22, May 30 - June 5, 2008. Website: <http://www.pattayamail.com/774/news.shtml#hd10>

AM

British man faces charges over sex with 14-year-old boy

The Tourist Police have arrested a British man on charges of molesting a 14-year-old boy, and officers were astonished to find that the man's room contained what they said was more than 40,000 photos of naked boys.

Investigations having revealed that a man was paying boys 400 baht a time for sexual favors at his room on Soi Buakhao, police obtained a search warrant from Pattaya Provincial Court on October 23. At 6 p.m. on the same day a team of officers led by Pol Lt Col Suwan Un-Anan, inspector at the Tourist Police Center Section 4 entered the premises. In the room were a 14-year-old boy and a 74-year-old British man named AM. On searching the room, the officers found an enormous quantity of pornographic material, consisting of 104 albums of pictures, one large package of videos, and a large quantity of CDs. Six cameras were also found. AM has been charged with molesting a child under 15 years of age, whether consenting or not. He denied the charges, saying that he only paid the boys 400 baht to take pictures of them, and asked the boys to perform masturbation for him. The boy found in the room has, however, stated that AM had sex with him.

The Pattaya Mail, Thailand Vol XV No. 44, Nov 2 – Nov 8 2007. Website: <http://www.pattayamail.com/744/news.shtml#hd8>

RM

British national arrested for lewd acts involving underage boys

A British man known as "Mr Teacher" has been arrested by police on charges of committing lewd acts involving young boys under the age of 15, and for taking minors away from their parents. Pol Col Chuchat Suwanakhom, commander of the tourist police said that he received reports a foreign national was committing sex acts against underaged boys and ordered Pol Lt Col Wuttichart Luonsukhant, inspector of Pattaya tourist police to investigate the case. Under two warrants issued by Pattaya Provincial Court, police entered the house at Soi Nong Yai 8 on May 6, where they found a notebook computer that contained nude photographs and photographs of sex acts with young boys. Two boys aged 12 and 14 identified him as having committed sex acts against them. Tourist police arrested RM, 66, occupant of the house. Investigations revealed that RM, a former schoolteacher from England, had taken two underage boys to live with him at the house where the arrest was made. The boys told police that they did not go to school because their parents were poor and that months ago RM had made financial arrangements with their parents for them to live with him. He acted as their guardian. They said that they were well taken care of, RM having hired tutors to teach them at home. He bought them games and gave them money, and he sent money to their parents. They alleged RM

committed lewd acts with them, having the boys sleep naked with him in the same bed and taking photographs of them. They further alleged he threatened them that if they told the police he would not give them money and that their lives would be in danger. RM admitted the charges during questioning and was kept in custody.

The Pattaya Mail, Thailand Vol. XV No. 19, May 11 - May 17, 2007. Website: <http://www.pattayamail.com/719/news.shtml#hd11>

MP + SE

Four pedophiles arrested in one day

Police investigations had revealed the identities of four foreign pedophiles currently active in Pattaya, and arrest warrants were applied for at Pattaya Provincial Court. The warrants were granted on March 18. Officers searched a house in South Pattaya on March 19 and arrested MP, a 76-year-old British national. He was charged with sexual activities against children under the age of 15. MP denied all the charges, but he was taken to the police station for further questioning. Police said that prior to this charge, MP had been arrested for sexually abusing two girls, aged 13

and 14, in Pattaya in the year 2000, and was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment. On that occasion he was released on bail, and the case is still in process. In 1997, MP was arrested for sexual offences against a 14-year-old boy when a suspicious police officer followed and caught him with his pants around his ankles, and in an agitated state, with the young boy behind a popular shopping mall. He was fined and released. The third arrest was that of SE, a British national age 55. Police confiscated a computer, CDs, and digital and video cameras. Police said the equipment showed pictures of him engaging in sexual activity with children aged under 15 years. Police said that those arrested had paid between 500 and 3,000 baht to children between the ages of 11 and 15 for sexual activity and for picture and video recording. A police spokesman said that they now know who the procurers were and are searching for them.

The Pattaya Mail, Thailand Vol. XV No. 12, March 23 - March 29, 2007. Website: <http://www.pattayamail.com/712/news.shtml#hd8>

MW

British man arrested for statutory rape of 12-year-old girl

A British national was arrested by the tourist police on September 14 on charges of the statutory rape of a 12-year-old girl, following the issue of an arrest warrant by Pattaya Provincial Court.

Pol Lt Gen Panya Mamen, commander-in-chief of the tourist police, together with superintendent of the tourist police headquarters Pol Col Supapol Arunsit and tourist police inspector Pol Lt Col Wuttichart Luaensucant, led a team of officers into the Condo Housing Authority Building on Theprasit Road at 1 a.m. to seize MW, aged 40.

MW was charged with having sex with a girl under the age of 15, whether or not she consented, in connection with the alleged statutory rape of a 12-year-old girl given the alias of Miss Or, it being alleged he paid 2,000 baht to the girl for her services. Taken to Pattaya Tourist Police Station for questioning, MW denied the charges.

MW had previously been arrested on September 20 last year for possession of 10kg of dry hashish stick, a Class 5 narcotic, when he was also found to be in possession of 160 packs of Viagra.

The Pattaya Mail, Thailand Vol. XIV No. 38. 22 - September 28, 2006. Website: <http://www.pattayamail.com/686/news.shtml#hd6>

RH

British man held on charges of lewd acts with minors

A British man has been arrested on charges of having sex with underage boys. Police obtained an arrest warrant on March 16 and entered the Nongprue home of RH, where they found the accused man and four boys under the age of 15. Two of the boys were 11 years old, one was 13 and the other 14. The boys, who were playing games at the time, were taken in for questioning. During the subsequent investigations one 10-year-old victim told police that RH had invited him into his home to play games and then tricked him into performing lewd acts. The man had paid him 500 baht. The four boys taken into custody at the time of the arrest verified the boy's story, telling officers that RH invited them to play games and bought sweets for them before committing the acts. RH, who has refused to give a statement and denies all charges, has been charged with sexually assaulting minors and performing lewd acts.

The Pattaya Mail, Thailand Vol. XIV No. 12. March 24 - March 30, 2006. Website: <http://www.pattayamail.com/660/news.shtml#hd4>

Other reports from Thailand

J

In May 2008 J, a 46 year old British man, was arrested in Pattaya for allegedly buying sex from 16-year-old boy. J admitted that he paid the boy Bt500 in exchange for sex.

The Nation Newspaper Thailand May 23, 2008

C

In May 2008 C, a 41 British man, was arrested in Pattaya for allegedly buying sex from an 11 year old boy.

The Nation Newspaper Thailand May 19, 2008

PJ

British national PJ, 39, who worked as an English teacher in Thailand was arrested in Bangkok in October 2007. PJ was charged with distributing child abuse images on the internet. After failing to appear at court in December 2007, police said they were unsure of his whereabouts at the time.

BBC website December 19, 2007. Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7151796.stm>

AS

AS, a British national aged 53, was discovered to be working at a school in Bangkok in December 2007. AS was previously sentenced to six months in jail in 2005 after he was convicted of indecency with a 14-year-old girl. He is on the British Sex Offenders Register which bans him from working with children in Britain.

The Lancashire Telegraph newspaper December 18, 2007. Website: <http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/1913015.0>

It is worth noting that British nationals arrested for child sex offences may also be breaking other laws. See below for an example:

KH

A British man KH, aged 52, was arrested in Chiang Mai in the north of Thailand and accused of indecent behaviour, stealing a camera, making false declarations to police, travelling on an expired tourist visa and being in possession of 12 fake passports. A police search of KH's luggage allegedly turned up two albums of child abuse images.

The Chiang Mai Mail, Thailand Vol. III No. 13 - March 27 - April 2 2004. Website: <http://www.chiangmai-mail.com/075/news.shtml#hd2>

APPENDIX 2

EXTRADITION FOR UK OFFENCES

The table below is a sample of arrests of child sex offenders who have offended in the UK.

Offender	Location of Offender(s)	Alleged Offence in the UK	Why extradition?
BT and GTS	Spain	BT was found guilty of sexual aggression against children, and GTS of possessing child abuse images.	Both men fled to Spain before completing their sentences. As of 29 August 2007, BT and GTS were due to appear before the National Court in Spain who would decide on their possible extradition to the UK.
SM	Thailand	SM admitted two charges of attempted rape of a child, three charges of indecent assault and two of indecency with children under 11 years old.	He was charged in 1999 but left the UK while on bail. Due to the Asian tsunami, SM was not arrested as planned on December 26, 2004. In 2006 SM was tracked down again and later extradited back to UK. He has since been jailed for nine years.
PO	Azerbaijan	PO was suspected of raping five children. Parents of the last child filed a claim to the police.	PO fled to Russia and later to Azerbaijan. Arrangements concerning his extradition to Great Britain were being taken, as reported 28 February 2008.
PB	Czech Republic	PB was charged with sex offences against children, possession of and making indecent images.	PB was tracked down July 2008 and extradited to the UK in August 2008.



ECPAT UK

Grosvenor Gardens House
35 – 37 Grosvenor Gardens
London SW1W 0BS
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7233 9887
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7233 9869
Email: info@ecpat.org.uk
Website: www.ecpat.org.uk