Death Valley Bike Race to Raise Funds to Fight Child Pornography

Congratulations to ICMEC board member Mike DeNoma for completing Marathon des Sables, a grueling 230 km foot race across the burning sands of the Sahara desert.

Carrying a 25-pound backpack, he battled extreme heat, difficult terrain, sandstorms, and blisters covering the bottoms of both feet. He endured nausea, diarrhea, heat dehydration, and a weakened immune system to finish the race in 37 hours and 4 minutes, and 242nd out of 731 starting participants.

DeNoma is raising money for missing and exploited children, with a target to complete 1228 km by participating in three grueling challenges from October 2005 to October 2006. He hopes to save ten children from child pornography for every kilometer he covers. The last of his three grueling challenges is the Furnace 508 bike race through Death Valley scheduled for October.


Child Pornography Not a Crime in Most Countries

“A currently, the laws around the world are alarmingly insufficient to fight this epidemic. This is simply not acceptable.”

Baron Daniel Cardon de Lichtbuer, Chairman of the Board, International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children

A new study of child pornography laws in 184 Interpol member countries around the world has produced alarming results: more than half of these countries (95) have no laws addressing child pornography. And, in many other countries, the existing laws are inadequate.

The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children, in collaboration with Interpol, the world’s preeminent law enforcement organization, released the study in April 2006. The study found that in 138 countries, the possession of child pornography is not a crime. In 122 countries, there is no law that specifically addresses the distribution of child pornography via computer and the Internet.

“Currently, the laws around the world are alarmingly insufficient to fight this epidemic,” said Baron Daniel Cardon de Lichtbuer, Chairman of the Board of ICMEC. “This is simply not acceptable.”

It is incumbent on every nation to join the international movement to stamp out this contagion by ensuring that it has the strongest possible laws making the manufacture, distribution, and possession of child pornography a crime.

The Internet is global. Consistent legislation around the world is essential in the fight against child pornography. It is incumbent on every nation to join the international movement to stamp out this contagion by ensuring that it has the strongest possible laws making the manufacture, distribution, and possession of child pornography a crime.
Results of the Global Child Pornography Study

The laws of each of the 184 Interpol member countries were assessed based on five criteria:

1. Are there existing laws criminalizing child pornography?
2. Does existing law include a legal definition of child pornography?
3. Is the possession of child pornography a crime?
4. Is the distribution of child pornography via computer and the Internet a crime?
5. Are Internet Service Providers (ISPs) required to report suspected child pornography to law enforcement?

5 Countries Meet All But One Criteria
- Australia, Belgium, France, South Africa, United States

22 Countries Meet All But One Criteria
- Asia & the Pacific: Hong Kong, New Zealand, Tonga
- Europe & Eurasia: Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Slovak Republic, Switzerland, the United Kingdom
- Latin America & the Caribbean: Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela
- Middle East & North Africa: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates

95 Countries Have No Laws
- Asia & the Pacific: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam
- Europe & Eurasia: Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Monaco, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
- Latin America & the Caribbean: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands, Antilles, Nicaragua, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago
- Middle East & North Africa: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates

New European Office Opened
ICMEC opened its first European office on May 1st. The office is located in the offices of the Fondation Mérieux in Lyon, France.

The office will work with Child Focus in Belgium to create national or regional centres throughout Europe that will address the growing problems of child abduction and child sexual exploitation. The office will also serve as the primary liaison with Interpol, which is headquartered in Lyon, and the Hague Conference on Private International Law, which is based in the Netherlands.

The office is possible through the generous support of Alain Mérieux, Chairman and CEO of French biomedical corporation, bioMérieux.

Malta Hosts Second Summit on Child Abduction
The Hague Conference on Private International Law convened a meeting in Malta to create a dialogue between Hague and non-Hague states to improve the handling of international child abduction cases. Judges and experts from 19 countries including Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey attended the meeting. ICMEC was one of only five NGOs invited to participate. It was the second such meeting hosted by the Hague and Malta officials.

Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography Members
- America Online
- American Express
- Authorize.Net
- Bank of America
- Capital One
- Citigroup
- Discover
- Financial Services Roundtable
- Google
- Hotlines (NHOPE)
- Inadequate Laws
- Interpol
- Jordan
- Kidnapping
- Kidnapped
- Laws
- Maldives
- Malta
- Missing Children Clearinghouse
- MSNBC
- New European
- New York
- Nigeria
- North American Bankcard
- Ohio Attorney General’s Office
- Online
- Pa
- Panama
- Pornography
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Peru
-浦
- S
- Second Summon
- Singapore
- Skype
- Slovenia
- South Africa
- Spain
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Syria
- Tel Aviv
- Turkmenistan
- United Kingdom
- United States
- Vancouver
- Visa
- Yemen
- Yahoo!

Banks and Credit Card Companies to Fight Child Porn on the Internet
Twenty-three of the world’s most prominent financial institutions and Internet industry leaders have joined with ICMEC and its sister organization, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), to eradicate commercial child pornography by 2008.

The new Financial Coalition Against Child Pornography includes leading banks, credit card companies, third party payment companies, and Internet service companies.

Child pornography has become a multi-billion dollar commercial enterprise and is among the fastest growing businesses on the Internet. The Internet has enabled instant access to child pornography by thousands, and possibly millions of individuals around the world. And the ability to use credit cards and other payment methods has made purchasing child pornography easy.

“The Internet has no geographic or jurisdictional borders. Battling the proliferation of child pornography websites requires the efforts of many. Law enforcement around the world is engaged, but we must also disrupt the economics of this despicable business,” said Baron Daniel Cardon de Lichtbaer, Chairman of ICMEC and former CEO of Bank Brussels Lambert. “The work of this Coalition will be key to accomplishing that goal.”

The Coalition will work in collaboration with the American Bankers Association, Association of Sites Advocating Child Protection, Child Focus of Belgium, the European Federation for Missing and Sexually Exploited Children, Financial Services Roundtable, the International Association of Internet Hotlines (NHOPE), the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, Ohio Missing Children Clearinghouse, and the U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.