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PRESS RELEASE

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PEDOPHILIA / METER REPORT 2017, "REPORTING EVERY EVIDENCE OF SEXUAL ABUSES ON CHILDREN IS A NEVERENDING COMMITMENT. 1000 REPORTS DELIVERED TO THE AUTHORITIES, INVOLVED FOR A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY ". (1)

Avola (SR), March 20, 2018 - <<Thousand Meter Reports sent and delivered to Heads of State, Ministers, Police and competent authorities, journalists all over the world, to make them aware of the tragedy of pedophilia and online child pornography and thus move from promises to effective actions to protect babies. >>

2 million photos and 1 million videos have been reported to the competent police. All this represents dramatic stories of violence of which many authorities are not in the least aware. The 2017 Meter NPO Report thus imposes a clear and proven denunciation of the great responsibilities of everyone. Grooming, abuse, production, dissemination and purchase of pedophilia and child pornography is a growing business also managed by organized crime. The silence and connivance of the giants of the web and of many countries is disturbing, they still do not have specific legislation and do not cooperate against these crimes. ».

It is with these words that Don Fortunato Di Noto, founder and president of Meter NPO, presents today in Pachino (Sr), at the Training and Educational Complex, the 2017 Report of Meter' s OSMOCOP (World Observatory against pedophilia and child pornography) available on the website www.associazionemeter.org both in the Italian and English versions.

Below we report the analysis of the phenomenon carefully monitored and formally reported in numbers and texts.

PICTURES ALMOST DOUBLED, VIDEOS QUINTUPLED: VICTIMS ARE 0/12 YEARS OLD RANGE - In 2017 Meter reported precisely 2,196,470 **photos** against 1,946,898 in 2016. **Videos** have quintupled: reports went from 203,047 in 2016 to 985,006 last year. The boom of reports for photos in April (with 1.6 million images), while the videos had two peaks: one in April (243,024), and one in October (223,090). According to our assessments, the most affected victims are found in the 8/12 years old age range (12,120 links, 1,494,252 photos and 836,868 videos), followed by the 3/7 years old age range (4,666 links, 685,610 photos and 140,532 videos) and finally 0/2 years old (503 links, 4,292 photos and 4,412 videos).

THE PODIUM OF SHAME: TONGA, RUSSIA, SAINT PIERRE ET MIQUELON - Nations involved in 2017 are 37. The unenviable record FOR the number of reported sites belongs to Tonga.

This island in the Pacific, this Kingdom has totalized 10,096 addresses. Russia follows with 1,150 and Saint Pierre et Miquelon with 1,091. Libya is leading for Africa, with 140 reports, while Hong Kong leads Asia with 7 reports. Let us take a look at every Continent:

- In Oceania the podium belongs to Tonga (10,096), Wallis and Futuna (645), Palau (49);
- In Europe: Russia (1,150), France (181), Montenegro (59);
- In America: Saint Pierre et Miquelon (1,091), Colombia (19), USA (14);
- In Africa: Libya (140), Southern French Territories (140), Gabon (4), Mali (4);
- In Asia: Hong Kong (7), British Indian Ocean (British territories in the Indian Ocean, 6), Japan (3).

SERVERS ARE PHYSICALLY LOCATED IN EUROPE AND AMERICA - From the monitoring activity of the Net what emerges is an important data, certainly not new, but it is useful to understand the economic mechanism behind it. Observing the graphs of the geolocation of the servers we can see that Europe and America are the cradle of most companies that manage them allowing the functioning of many sites or platforms in which child pornography is spread. Therefore we denounce the absence of control by the giants of the web despite the efforts of someone.

SITES IN INCREASE - If we look at how much Meter has done on the subject of reports to the Cncpo (National Center for Online Pedopornography, in Italy), we have 3,137 reporting protocols (each protocol contains suspicious addresses and / or references), against the 2.414 in 2016. Furthermore, reported websites have almost doubled, from 9,379 in 2016 to 17,299 last year. Deep web references are diminished, from 95 to 50, and also social networks, from 155 to 31. From 2003 to 2015, Meter made 152,043 reports, equal to 760,215 addresses in total. We note, therefore, that Meter has shifted its attention from Social to Internet sites.

EMBARGO UNTIL 11 AM ON 20 MARCH 2018

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Avola (SR), 20 March 2018 - **BOOM OF FILESHARING AND CLOUD** - Pedophiles - perverse, lucid and determined - (see Report pages 16-18) - find today more and more sophisticated means to distribute their material. Above all they use Dropfile (10,096 links, 74,717 photos and 13,047 videos), which is a timed platform. Paedophiles do also make use of cloud services: in Russia there is a platform with 1,021 links, 274,501 photos and 31,060 videos.

DEEP WEB - In 2017 we discovered 50 addresses in the deep web (the hidden part of the Internet), the free space in which criminal associations around the world expand their trades. The phenomenon has moved exponentially in this uncontrollable free zone that makes the immediate intervention of police forces all over the world difficult. This is why Meter has shifted its attention to the research and cataloging of the telematic archives that can be found there, in order to avoid to see its own report work nullified. The deep web is a submerged area of the Net that is difficult to detect and explore, so police forces of all states should work together to coordinate each other avoiding the loss and waste of vital information for a rapid contrast to the pedo-criminal web and for the immediate release of the children involved in this shameful market of unprecedented violence.

Monitoring work on online pedophilia remains a topic ignored by political forces who have no interest in putting on their agenda and in committing themselves in first line in this important fight against pedophile crime. All that can not be done is certainly to the detriment of the small victims:

people remain silent waiting for more minors to be involved in this atrocity, because the web does not give respite or even stop.

CULTURAL PEDOPHILIA - Pedophiles and child pornographers do not only use the Net as a means to spread photos and videos, they also use it to stick up for pedophilia and try to normalize it. A real structured and well organized lobby that provides advice on how to lure children. We denounce a series of initiatives aimed at fundraising, in support of the cause pro pedophilia and for the international day that pedophiles around the world celebrate every year. There are countless groups and “rooms” where they tell stories about sexual encounters with children and run tests to “measure” their sexual attraction towards children.

To oppose the pedophile ideology in 2012 Italy has ratified by law 172 the Lanzarote Convention of the 25th of October 2007; this introduced the art. 414 bis in the Italian Penal Code. For the first time the expressions of “pedophilia and cultural child pornography” have entered the Italian regulations: «Unless the fact constitutes a more serious offence, anyone who with any telematic means and also with just a cultural aim, spreads legitimizing judgements, instigates to commit or carries out apology of the behaviours required by the articles 600-bis, 600-ter, 600-quater, 600-quater.1, 600-quinquies, 609-bis, 609-quater and 609-quinquies, carried out with minors is punished with imprisonment from 3 to 5 years».

Despite the Lanzarote Convention (2007) sites continue to proliferate on the Web.

Pedophiles have various identification logos or symbols to recognise each other, to distinguish their sexual preferences and to specifically indicate their favourite gender; as a matter of fact members of pedophile organizations do encourage the use of descriptions like “boylove”, “girllove”, and “childlove”.

CASES FOLLOWED AT THE LISTENING CENTER - In 2017, we followed 131 cases, most of which are concentrated in Sicily (57), Campania (26) and Lazio (9). Cases have increased compared to 2016, when there have been 91. From 2002 to last year there has been a total of 1,402. We have provided 1,024 telephone consultations against the 1,157 of 2016. The listening Centre is the heart of Meter, of the help relationship, where the listener and the listened one come together in a reciprocal relationship to create a welcoming and safe environment that allows the reading of the psycho-emotional discomfort and of the various fragilities and vulnerabilities.

TRAINING: 18,381 PEOPLE MET - In 2017 Meter has attended to 347 conventions and training, sensitization and prevention meetings on request of public and private bodies all over the entire national and international territory. The involvement of the Association's professionals in the field of training becomes more incisive and relevant each year. This year a significant request for meetings came from associations of third sector (57%), this demonstrating an increasing sensitivity towards childhood.

Covered topics dealt with the world of children, observed in its multiple aspects. Particular attention was given to the theme of safeguard and protection of childhood, holding in account responsibilities that adults have towards children. Another theme of great interest relates to pedophilia and pitfalls of the Net, from the analysis of profiles of pedophiles and victims to the dynamics of the phenomenon and risks which hide behind Internet and technology. There were also important meetings on the themes of bullying and cyber-bullying, of education and social commitment of children and teens.

Our operators met over **18,381** people: summary cards that accompany each event to which Meter participates allow us to calculate the number of people encountered, the kind of meetings and issues we dealt with on various occasions.

METERS AND SCHOOLS - Relations between Meter and schools are granted by the activation of Agreements signed with educational Institutions of every grade and order. The aim is to construct an educational union to intervene preventively on discomfort situations shown by students (ex.

Relational difficulties, learning disorders, bullying and isolation phenomena, addiction and violence forms related to new technologies). **In 2017, we met 7,011 students, 574 teachers, 230 families and 390 university students.**

METER AND THE CHURCH - Relations between Meter and Church are strengthened every year through collaborations and contributions. Meter is a catholic reality which has always been in church life; 2017 confirms the presence of the Association in ecclesial realities which asked for its intervention. 60% of topics covered in meetings deal with pedophilia and pitfalls of the Net. From 2002 to today 58 dioceses have been met, 15 just in 2017. Meter' s participation is also requested in religious celebrations, Father Fortunato is invited to celebrate the Mass in particular moments of the liturgical year. Numerous parish communities commit themselves every month to say the Holy Rosary "In defence of children... let' s pray" .

NEW COURSES - From 2017 we offer the *Course for the New Pastoral Care against pedophilia and sexual abuse of minors*. The course aims to provide the recipients with the theoretical and practical contents, with the aids for a rapid recognition of the signs of discomfort of the child, indicators of abuse which require the intervention of qualified operators. The knowledge of the phenomenon of child abuse, ecclesiastical or otherwise, of the canonical and civil laws on the subject of abuse, of the rules on abuse created by the Italian Episcopal Conference, acquired through the course, allows to construct and disseminate a pastoral for minors aimed at the defence and prevention of childhood.

TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX - Training activities of the Centre focus on the training of high-profile human resources, to stem and respond to social issues in the context of childhood, adolescence and family. The activities are studied and elaborated for all social and ecclesial interests.

CONCLUSION - Father Fortunato Di Noto says "For Meter international attention is needed in order to allow a more incisive action in the identification and repression of the criminal subjects that produce, distribute and hold pedophile material. Otherwise, we should tell children that that no one is interested in their tragic and fragile stories of abuse".