

terre des hommes



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PRESSRELEASE

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Terre des Hommes dismayed at political deal over child pornography producers

Terre des Hommes will ask for intervention by the UN to demand a full trial of the two Dutch child pornography producers that were let off the hook after a series of failures by the Dutch government. Now Brazil itself has withdrawn its complaint. "Justice and international law have been dealt a serious blow by irresponsible politicians."

Terre des Hommes has taken note of Brazil's withdrawal of the complaint that it was to lodge against The Netherlands for its failure to adequately deal with two officers of the Dutch navy that had been convicted to 8 and 11 years imprisonment. The Brazilian Judge had instructed the prosecutor to lodge a complaint against The Netherlands for its flagrant breach of the Child Rights Convention by first aiding in the escape of the convicts from Brazil, refusing to return them to convict them in The Netherlands and then dismissing almost 90% of the evidence in the subsequent case, whereupon the Judge acquitted one of the convicts and gave the other a very light alternative punishment.

The President of Brazil, mr. Lula, withdrew the complaint after at a press conference in The Netherlands, where he was visiting at the moment. Lucien Stöpler, Child Rights Policy Officer of Terre des Hommes in The Netherlands: "This political deal between the President of Brazil and the Dutch government shows why so many well-written treaties fail: because it is not politically opportune to actually abide by its rules. Justice and international law have been dealt a serious blow by irresponsible politicians."

Terre des Hommes appeals to the Dutch government to extradite the two Dutch navy officers to serve their sentence using the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime as a basis for extradition. Also, it will now lodge a complaint by the newly installed Special Rapporteur on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and ask her to intervene in the case. "There is still a lot of evidence that remains unused. This evidence needs to be used in a re-trial of the convicts. Terre des Hommes will also make the case known to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which will examine the Dutch activities to ensure the rights of Children in January of 2009.

For more informatio please contact Lucien Stöpler, 06 - 124 78 785.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands (Earth of Mankind) is a Dutch child focussed development organisation based in The Hague. Founded in 1965 as a non-profit organisation, Terre des Hommes Netherlands aims to improve the quality of life of children in difficult circumstances all over the world, regardless of race, faith and vision.