



End Child Prostitution
Child Pornography
and Trafficking of Children
for Sexual Purposes

ECPAT-USA, Inc.

ECPAT-USA believes Roman Polanski must resolve his case with the US courts
October 2, 2009

New York, New York – ECPAT-USA believes that Roman Polanski must face US courts to resolve the outstanding warrant for his arrest on charges of raping a 13-year old girl.

“Admitting that you have had unlawful sex with a minor and then fleeing the country before sentencing is not behavior that should be tolerated by any society,” said Carol Smolenski Executive Director of ECPAT-USA, “The outstanding warrant for the arrest of Roman Polanski shows that there are issues still unresolved in relation to this case and Polanski should return to the US where he should be held accountable for this crime against a child.”

ECPAT-USA calls for stronger international cooperation and agreements between all relevant countries to ensure sex crimes against children are prosecuted to the full extent of the law. This case shows the weaknesses in the legal frameworks within and between countries that has allowed this case to remain open for so long. Furthermore, irrespective of the international profile of a perpetrator, no double standards should exist in the application of the law.

In November 2008, the United States and Switzerland were among 137 governments that signed *The Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Call for Action to Prevent and Stop Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents* in Brazil at the World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents. The Rio Declaration is a wide-ranging policy statement that governments agreed to implement. They agreed to, “take all necessary steps to strengthen international cooperation by multilateral, regional and bilateral arrangements for the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts of sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.” The Polanski case is an opportunity for the US government to prove it was serious when it signed this statement.

For further information:

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Notes to editors:

ECPAT-USA is the U.S. member of ECPAT International, a global network of organisations and individuals working together for the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. It seeks to encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. For more information, see www.ecpat.net