



Child Abuse Expert Available To Discuss Worldwide Internet Pedophile Ring

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DURHAM, N.H. – David Finkelhor, director of the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire and a nationally recognized expert in the study of child victimization, is available to discuss the news that police have destroyed a global Internet pedophile ring, arresting 700 suspects worldwide and rescuing 31 children.

Finkelhor can be reached immediately at 603-862-2761 (office) and david.finkelhor@unh.edu.

“This case highlights both the vices and virtues of the Internet era. The new technology allows insidious magnification of activity and collaboration among pedophiles, who were previously an extremely isolated and marginalized set of criminals. At the same time, it provides new networking tools and opportunities for law enforcement, who in a single successful investigation, can corral hundreds of offenders and protect potentially thousands of children against future abuse,” Finkelhor said.

Finkelhor has conducted extensive research about pedophiles and their victims. Finkelhor has been studying the child victimization, child maltreatment and family violence since 1977. He is the author or editor of 11 books including *Sourcebook on Child Sexual Abuse* (Sage, 1986), *Nursery Crimes: Sexual Abuse in Day Care* (Sage, 1988), and *Sexually Abused Children* (Free Press, 1999). In 2002 he addressed the first-ever White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children.

Currently, he is analyzing national data (including National Incidence Based Reporting System and National Crime Victimization Survey Data) for information about crimes against children. He is also conducting surveys to examine the extent and nature of offenses against youth, including those that involve the Internet.

