



ECPAT International Statement  
For immediate release

**ECPAT International**  
END CHILD PROSTITUTION  
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY &  
TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN  
FOR SEXUAL PURPOSES

## **Roman Polanski must resolve his case with the US courts - ECPAT**

30 September 2009

**Bangkok, Thailand** – ECPAT believes that Roman Polanski must face US courts for the crime of raping a 13-year old girl.

‘Drugging and raping a child then leaving the country before sentencing is behavior that should not be tolerated by any society,’ said Carmen Madrinan, Executive Director of ECPAT International, ‘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 must be held accountable for this crime against a child.’

ECPAT calls for stronger international cooperation and agreements between all relevant countries on cooperating 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,’ added Madrinan, ‘The issues around this case has re-opened feelings of stress and trauma experienced by the survivor and her family whose wishes for privacy should be protected and respected.’

Roman Polanski pleaded guilty to having unlawful sex with a 13-year old girl in the US in 1977. Polanski spent 42 days in prison and eventually agreed to plead guilty and receive a sentence of time served. Polanski fled the United States on the eve of his 1978 sentencing, believing that a judge might overrule his plea and put him in jail for a longer time period.

### **For further information:**

Caroline Liou, Information & Communications Officer, ECPAT International, email [carolinel@ecpat.net](mailto:carolinel@ecpat.net), tel +66 84 729 7528 ext 128, mobile +66 86 057 2286, fax +66 (0) 2 215 8272, <http://www.ecpat.net>

### **Notes to editors:**

- ECPAT International is 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](http://www.ecpat.net)