



ANNUALE REPORT 2020 **pedophilia and child abuse material**

New form of slavery and child trafficking

ONLINE PRESS CONFERENCE

March 18, 2021 10.30 AM Google Meet

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from the page Meter Onlus di Don Fortunato Di Noto

EMBARGO UNTIL 10.30 AM ON MARCH 18, 2021

PEDOPHILIA / REPORT METER 2020, UNSTOPPABLE TRAFFIC OF MINORS, A NEW FORM OF SLAVERY. DON DI NOTO: THEY DON'T STOP, EVEN WE (1)

Avola (SR), March 18, 2021 - Pedophilia and child pornography are not afraid of Covid and do not need a vaccine, quite the contrary. If in 2020 it was everyone's turn to stay at home, this meant a golden business for those who rape children and exploit the material produced with these little slaves of modern times. And for now, there seems to be no vaccine against child abuse. This, in brief, is the content of the 2020 edition of the Report prepared by *Meter Onlus Association* (www.associazionemeter.org) founded and chaired by Fr. Fortunato Di Noto, who has been at the forefront of defending children for over 30 years. The Report was presented with an online press conference on March 18, with the presence of Fr. Fortunato Di Noto, President of *Meter Onlus*; Dr. Nunzia Ciardi, Senior Executive of the State Police and Director of the Postal and Communications Police Service; Dr. Marisa Scavo, Deputy Prosecutor of the Catania District Prosecutor's Office; Dr. Antonio Scavone, Counselor for the family, Social Policies and Labor of the Sicily Region, moderator Pino Ciociola, correspondent for the Catholic newspaper *Avvenire*.

PANDEMIC DID NOT STOP SHAME - During 2020 *Meter*, through its OS.MO.CO.P. (World Observatory Against Pedophilia) monitored the Net and compiled precise reports sent to the Italian Postal Police and to foreign Polices. This means that our data and links are counted one by one and from them, very often, national and global investigations have started to investigate and led to the arrest and trial - with verdicts - of real networks of pedophiles and child pornographers.

Links have almost doubled compared to 2019: 14,521 against 8,489. Meter notes an interesting and

disconcerting data, the amount of videos reported has more than doubled, from 992,300 videos in 2019 to 2,032,556 in 2020. The reported compressed folders skyrocketed from 325 to 692.

If in 2019 pictures reported were 7,074,194, in 2020 there were 3,768,057, a figure almost halved. Evidently “simple” photos are no longer enough, pedophiles search and produce more videos to satisfy their unhealthy desires, their deviant perversion finds greater satisfaction in movies. The videos, engulfed by the “consumers” of child pornography, allow them to enter more into the “scene”, to be “participants” in front of a screen of acts against poor helpless victims.

Meter recorded an increase in the material reported between February and May 2020. Following the confinement measures, the use of social media and the time dedicated to the Internet by minors increased. While on one hand the Internet represented the only way to stay in touch with peers, friends, to study and to distract our children and everybody from the domestic routine, on the other hand exposed them to online risks: in fact, this has increased the number of children subject to online grooming.

SOCIAL NETWORK AND INSTANT MESSAGE SERVICES. EXCHANGE CHANNEL FOR PEDOPHILES - Chat rose up from 323 to 456. We reported to the Italian Postal Police, together with other foreign police forces and the same service managers: 92 WhatsApp groups, 100 on Telegram and 262 on Facebook. Groups of pedophiles entertain discussions on the subject via Facebook and then, using the connection with Whatsapp, exchange material to take advantage of the end-to-end technology that ensures the privacy of the exchange. Child pornographers take advantage of Telegram’s secret chats as they allow the self-destruction of videos and messages by setting the viewing time granted to the recipient of the message.

IN SIX YEARS 20 MILLION PICTURES REPORTED - If we take a look at the historical series, we can say that from 2002 to today *Meter* has sent 63,688 protocols to the police all over the world, containing 189,252 reported links. We have followed - thanks to our Listening Center - 1,832 cases and received 30,280 telephone requests. That’s not all: in just six years, between 2014 and 2020, we have reported 19,771,071 photos and 5,501,752 videos. The mega-archives reported are 13,066 and chats 1,214. We must also report that *Meter* has often proceeded to make reports thanks to the online form on the Association’s website, www.associazionemeter.org, through which users, for 17,507 times since 2007, have sent suspicious addresses. Regarding social media: from 2008 to date we have sent 8,661 reports to the police and for the *Deep Web*, the most hidden and unknown scourge of the Internet, there have been 47,539 reports. On this issue, we refer you to the appropriate paragraph of this press release.

INCREASE IN GENERIC DOMAINS - This year a different figure emerges from previous years, the majority of the links reported are marked by the .com domain (11,049 in 2020, 2,483 in 2019). Out of a total of 14,521 reported links, 12,387 have generic domains (5,977 in 2019). This highlights a change in the way child pornography material is exchanged.

Cyber-pedophiles prefer to exchange files through file sharing platforms, often free and timed; through Internet sites that offer temporary space on their servers and allow you to upload and share files or folders with a few clicks, often in total anonymity; or through chats or groups in social networks. Obviously the advantages of these web services are many and child pornographers from all over the world know them well and use them almost undisturbed for their shady trafficking.

DOMAINS CLASSIFICATION AND LIABILITY OF SERVER PROVIDERS - Let’s now see where the level domains are, that is the international “plates” of the links on which the images and videos that *Meter* has reported are located. First place for New Zealand (453 reports, domain .nz), Grenada (353,

domain .gd), Montenegro (241, domain .me); in 2019 we had the island of Haiti in the Caribbean Sea in Central America in first place, with 640 links (domain .ht); in second place is France, with 484 links (.fr domain); in third place, with 410 links, New Zealand. Let's see now, continent by continent. We specify that in 2020 the nations involved in our monitoring are 30.

AFRICA: LIBYA, SAO TOME AND PRINCE, MALI - This continent has 40 reports. Of these, Libya is in first place with 26 (they were 8 in 2019), followed by Sao Tome and Principe (8), Mali with 6.

AMERICA: GRENADA, ST. VINCENT & GRENADINE, COLOMBIA - The Americas totalize 527 reports: Grenada, with 353; followed by St. Vincent & the Grenadines, 97; Colombia with 59. Island of Anguilla 12 and Belize with 6.

ASIA: BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, REUNION, INDIA - The British Overseas Territory of the Indian Ocean ranks first in Asia as in 2019. Domains dropped from 284 to 119, followed by the island of Reunion (22), India (20), the Philippines with 2 reports. Total: 163.

EUROPE: MONTENEGRO, FRANCE, RUSSIA. FOURTH ITALY - Let's move now to the Old Continent. Here we have Montenegro in the lead, with 241 reports, followed by France (161) and Russia (97). However, there is also Italy, in fourth place, with 70. This is a disturbing figure: in 2019 Italy had totaled only 2 reports, while Montenegro 27 and France, then in first place, 484. The reports have increased: from 644 to 671.

OCEANIA: NEW ZEALAND, WALLIS AND FUTUNA, TONGA - Finally, here we are at Oceania, which totals 733 total reports, an increase compared to 681 in 2019. So here is firmly in first place like last year, New Zealand, which goes from 410 to 453 reports, followed by Wallis and Futuna (129, they were 15 in 2019), Tonga (72 compared to 60 in 2019). The Cocos Islands complete this list, from 12 to 61 reports, Micronesia, which dropped from 69 to 9, Palau from 90 to 7 and finally Tuvalu from 20 to 2.

DEEP WEB, THE PLAGUE CONTINUES - The deep web and the dark web (the hidden part of the internet) are a free space in which criminal associations around the world expand their trade. Illicit phenomena are moving exponentially to these uncontrollable free zones where the intervention of police forces from all over the world is difficult. It is the largest and darkest portion of the internet that is not indexed by search engines, so we will never find it through Google. The dark web, the deepest part of the deep web, consists of pages with a .onion domain. The best known software to access the dark web is *Tor* and looks like a browser, which we can download for free. *Tor* was born within the US Department of Defense to allow anonymous and secure communications. Since 2004 it has been in the public domain and is a tool for protecting one's identity.

Surfing with these systems means protecting your privacy, becoming invisible navigators who do not reveal their identity, rather they make it changeable with every click.

These areas of the web become, for obvious reasons, the humus in which the atrocities described and documented in this report take root. We want to clearly state that the numbers on these pages are not statistical data, abstract calculations, but reports in which a child is behind each image or video. Those who have responsibility for vigilance and justice take action so that silence does not remain on what happens daily on the web. (CONTINUED)

PEDOPHILIA / REPORT METER 2020, UNSTOPPABLE TRAFFIC OF MINORS, A NEW FORM OF SLAVERY. DON DI NOTO: THEY DON'T STOP, EVEN WE (2)

PEDOMAMA - Among the new trends on the Net, the “Pedomama” phenomenon identifies female sexual abuse, or the abuse perpetrated by women, mothers, to the detriment of a minor, their child. In a society where man is expected to commit this crime against humanity, certainly not the mother, mother-child abuse causes greater indignation than the male figure (father). This happens because it shows a violation of the social expectations that frame the female and maternal figure. Thinking that women, who traditionally play a role of care, protection, assistance and education, can abuse causes discomfort and discomfort, but unfortunately today we are faced with a growing phenomenon. It is important to be aware of this, recognizing this type of abuse allows us to protect the little victims. The process of minimizing this phenomenon causes a negative effect on the type of intervention to combat this crime. Meter reported in 2020 as many as 2,652 videos and photos contained in folders called pedomam, familypedo, mamborn, which portray mothers who abuse their children.

THE NON-HOMOGENEITY OF LAWS IN THE WORLD - Once again we must underline and denounce the existence of a legislative vacuum on the subject of child pornography. Not all states in the world, in fact, have adequate legislation to combat crime linked to pedophilia and child pornography. Often there is no lawful obligation of collaboration of the server providers, which currently, in many countries, provide data to competent authorities only “on a voluntary basis,” since the privacy of Internet users continues to be intolerably protected, even if they are criminals.

In recent years Meter has had the opportunity to weave important collaborations with national servers and domain administrators. The most immediate result is the removal of the material; however, it often happens that after we have sent our reports, the following automatic response simply arrives: “We have received it and are forwarding to the competent authorities”

To date, there is no correspondence between the huge amount of reports sent, investigations started and outcome of the trials. Often only oblivion corresponds to the reports: a circumstance proven by the fact that after many years the same reported material can still be found, placed in other areas of the web. Identification of the culprits is necessary, otherwise this fight is ineffective and useless.

Immunity is a blow to the heart both for the victims and for those involved in their protection. Despite this, it is necessary to underline the constant action and synergy between *Meter* and the Italian Postal Police. In recent years, following our reports, 24 operations have been launched against the phenomenon of pedophilia and child pornography. But it is not enough and it cannot be enough.

CULTURAL PEDOPHILY - The Net is not only a means of disseminating photos and videos that pedophiles and child pornographers use to get rich, but it also serves to “defend” pedophilia and to attempt a work of normalization. A real structured and well-organized lobby (fundraising and international day of pro-pedophilia) that provides advice on how to lure children and indicates online sites where it is possible to find photos and videos with child pornography content. To counter the pedophile ideology, the Lanzarote Convention of 25 October 2007, ratified by Italy in 2012 with law no. 172, introduced art. 414 bis of the Criminal Code.

For the first time the expression “pedophilia and cultural child pornography” has entered our legal system: “Unless the fact constitutes a more serious crime, anyone who, by any means and form of expression, even by electronic means and for the sole cultural purpose, publicly legitimate, disseminates legitimate judgments, instigates to commit or condones the conduct provided for in 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 three to five years “

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

Various identification logos or symbols to recognize each other, to diversify their sexual preferences and to specifically indicate the sexual gender preferred by the pedophile; in fact, members of pedophile organizations encourage the use of descriptions such as “boylove”, “girllove” and “childlove”

LISTENING AND FIRST RECEPTION CENTER, THE SPECTRUM OF COVID - Over the last 18 years, our listening and first reception center has received 10,323 telephone calls and 1,832 consultations at the national headquarters. In 2020, the Meter Listening Center accepted 111 requests for help. Those who turned to Meter to be listened to and oriented come mainly from the Sicilian territory (80). Most part of the calls come from the Sicilian territory, indicative of the presence of the National headquarters and therefore of a greater possibility of meeting, followed by Lazio, Lombardy and Piedmont. Issues addressed in 2020 mainly concern behavioral disorders (14 out of 111), dysfunctional family relationships (13 out of 111) and sexual abuse (9 out of 111) which, together with past abuses and suspicions of abuse, represent a large part of the requests received and, consequently, of the support offered. Many cases deal with problems related to the world of the Internet, from child pornography to online solicitation, from sexting to cyberbullying and other dangers of the internet.

In 2020 there are also some cases of psychological disorders referable to the Covid-19 pandemic. Meter has therefore activated a telephone psychological listening service or through the use of social networks to provide support for the fragility of families and their children and to contain and manage pandemic fatigue (pandemic stress).

TELEPHONE REQUESTS - In 2020, 284 calls were received by our toll-free number and the institutional phone number from various Italian regions (most requests from Sicily, Lazio, Emilia-Romagna). *Meter* responded to telephone requests of various types. Most of the calls are related to psychological counseling (76) and spiritual counseling (63); information is requested on the Association and particularly about services offered, meetings organized and the possibility of becoming volunteers (47); numerous requests for university internships in the distance modality (33); conferences (25) and interviews (20) at the top of the list confirm the association’s commitment to training and awareness, despite the lockdown caused by Covid emergency. Also 2020 saw the highest number of phone reports coming from Sicily (133 out of 284), region that hosts the National Headquarters. (CONTINUED)

PEDOPHILIA / REPORT METER 2020, UNSTOPPABLE TRAFFIC OF MINORS, A NEW FORM OF SLAVERY. DON DI NOTO: THEY DON’T STOP, EVEN WE (3)

MEETINGS, TRAINING AND CONFERENCES - In 2020 *Meter*, during the Covid 19 emergency, guaranteed training through the remote mode, facilitating the rapid spread of information, training through technological platforms, videoconferences and the production of educational and multimedia information material . We held 41 meetings in 2020, 10 on the online platform, for a total of 2,435 people met.

In this time of distancing, greater attention has been paid to social media, as functional means for the dissemination of social campaigns, communication initiatives and prevention measures, increased presence on Instagram and Facebook; initiatives have been devised specifically for social media to create greater involvement of schools and to continue the work of raising awareness dear to *Meter*.

The main topic that *Meter* professionals have dealt with, also in 2020, concerns pedophilia and the pitfalls of the network: the analysis of the profiles of pedophiles and victims, the dynamics of the phenomenon,

the psychological aspects of the pedophile and the consequences on victim, the risks that the internet and technology conceal.

SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES – Facts and figures related to schools and universities refer to the first months of 2020. Unfortunately, the lockdown last spring interrupted training courses and conferences within the school and university world. In different ways, counseling activities, teacher support for particularly difficult situations and training internships have not stopped prevention, training and intervention activities at the request of schools, concerned particularly the issues closest to the world of education: bullying and cyberbullying, the Internet and social networks, pedophilia and child abuse, protection of the rights of childhood, disability and social inclusion, affection education. 885 students and teachers met.

METER AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - In 2020 *Meter* continued to be present in the ecclesial realities that requested it both for formation and awareness, and to respond to requests for help and specialist advice. Last January, *Meter* training services have been also requested by the diocese of Toledo in Spain. Issues addressed in the training meetings concern the world of childhood, in particular pedophilia and the dangers of the web. Since 2002, numerous meetings have been organized in 91 dioceses, in 2020 professionals of *Meter* met 6 dioceses. The total religious themed meetings in 2020 were 11, we trained 240 priests and religious and met at least 650 people at meetings in the parishes. Unfortunately, in 2020 the religious celebrations in which Fr. Fortunato was invited to officiate mass and to bring the living experience of *Meter* also to the ecclesial sphere disappeared. Numerous parish communities continue to recite the Holy Rosary every month “in defense of children ... let us pray” *Meter* deals with the training of priests, religious and seminarians as well as operators of the ecclesial community to allow them to learn about and recognize situations of hardship, promoting the construction and dissemination of a pastoral care for the prevention and defense of childhood. For years *Meter* has been offering a specialized training course for dioceses and seminaries to train future priests on the drama of pedophilia and child pornography, through the sociological presentation of the phenomenon, the knowledge of notions of canon and criminal law and the study of psychological dynamics. linked to the abuser and the victim child.

In 2019 Fr Fortunato was appointed Diocesan Referent for the Regional Service for the Protection of Minors of the Sicilian Bishops' Conference (C.E.S.I.), moreover the same appointed him Head of the Regional Listening Desk. From these positions comes the commitment in numerous meetings organized by the C.E.S.i., in 2020 also in the modalities of webinars for the formation of the clergy.

DAY OF CHILDREN VICTIMS 2020 - Covid emergency made us experience a GBV - Children's Day Victims of Violence, Indifference and Exploitation which is celebrated against pedophilia from 25 April to the first Sunday in May - in a different way. Unfortunately, it was not possible to organize the gathering in St. Peter's Square to attend personally the *Regina Coeli* and receive the long-awaited “special greeting from the Pope”, once again confirming our commitment in defense of children. But the Holy Father did not miss his message of encouragement through the live TV on May 3, 2020. A collage was sent to Pope Francis with hundreds of daisies created by children, the result of a social awareness initiative that engaged the little ones in the creation of symbolic paper flowers.

DON DI NOTO: THEY DON'T STOP. NEITHER US - It is a long, arduous, difficult story that of *Meter*. A piece of history in defense of children. An undisputed story, even against detractors and enemies. It is true, the subject is difficult, repugnant, abusing children is an abomination and a new form of slavery.

More must be done, much more for this tragedy which has dramatic implications. Among the various human dramas, this cannot be considered marginal or of little importance. Don't you think?
Please refer to the consultation of the 2020 Report and the statements by Fr. Fortunato Di Noto reported in the introduction to the same.

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