

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

## pedophilia and child pornography

*The challenge against pedocriminality is not a game*



## PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGO UNTIL 10.30 AM, MARCH 19th, 2024

**PEDOPHILIA/ METER REPORT 2023: 5,745 CHILD PORNOGRAPHY LINKS REPORTED. MORE AND MORE VICTIMS: NEWBORNS AND MINORS BETWEEN 3 AND 12 YEARS. 220 CASES FOLLOWED BY THE LISTENING CENTER. ABUSE OF DISABLED PEOPLE IS INCREASING. FATHER DI NOTO: «THE CHALLENGE AGAINST PEDOCRIMINALITY IS NOT A GAME.» (1)**

Avola (SR), March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – **“The challenge against paedocrime is not a game.** The commitment is constant and indispensable and it is tiring to express the tireless passion that every *Meter* volunteer has for children against abuse. Numbers manage to build a reality, chipping away at the armor of indifference and insensitivity. **One abused child is already too many. The millions of children whose privacy is violated are excessive, destroying their dignity.** They are numbers that tell of a ‘human disorder’, they collect stories of minors from whom paedocriminals - in a 1:1 ratio - have stolen their innocence. Unquantifiable abuses of which the web - an indispensable and positive tool - has amplified the drama, the criticality, in the numerous shipwrecks within the digital peripheries. **Online pedophilia represents a range of the most heinous crimes that fall within the context of transactional crime.”**

With these words, founder and president of *Meter*, Father Fortunato Di Noto, introduces the 2023 edition Report prepared by *Meter* E.T.S. Association. ([www.associazionemeter.org](http://www.associazionemeter.org)) and presented today at the *Meter* headquarters in Pachino (SR). The Report represents the sum of the work carried out by *Meter* Association during the last year: but it is also the list of a pain that shows no signs of ending.

### **MONITORING DATA AND REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE ITALIAN POSTAL POLICE AND FOREIGN POLICE.**

The ranking sees the richest and most powerful country in the world also number one in online child pornography: the United States of America is the first nation in the ranking in terms of the number of domains (the “license plates” of websites) with 613 verified addresses and reported, followed by the Philippines (215 reports) and Montenegro (93).

**The number of links reported this year is 5,745**, and a lot of material is sold through the deep or *dark web*, the dark side of the Internet in which criminal associations from all over the world expand their trafficking since the sites of this part of the Internet are not indexed by traditional search engines: it is therefore possible, using a browser called Tor, to access the deep web in complete confidentiality with the certainty of operating without being identified.

**This material is often disseminated through archives compressed in .RAR format: 1,260 folders reported to the Postal Police** (with which *Meter* has had a collaboration agreement since 2008), with an

enormous quantity of photos and videos inside. We would like to underline that these are not actors, but children and what is happening is all true, with economic benefits for those who produce and trade amounting to mind-boggling figures. Lastly, pedophilia has discovered the secrets of marketing; a survey among users leads to the production of material according to market demands.

**COMPRESSED FOLDERS AND LINKS ON PHOTOS, CHAT AND VIDEO. ABUSE CASES FOLLOWED ARE RISING** – OS.MO.CO.P. (World Observatory Against Pedophilia) of *Meter* reported 2,110,585 photos, 651,527 videos and 1,260 compressed folders which confirm the exchange method of recent years and therefore the sharing of mega collections of .RAR files for the trafficking of raped children. 237 social groups reported.

From 2002 to today, *Meter* has reported a total of 225,316 links. Behind each of those photos there is a victim. Abuse cases followed at the *Meter* Listening Center were 220.

**USA, PHILIPPINES AND MONTENEGRO AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD PODIUM** – Now let's look at national and generic domains, i.e. the "license plates" of global websites for reporting. The most used are .com (4,193 reports), .onion (85), .net (54), followed by: .link (31), .site (21), .org (11), .asia and .stream (9 each), .chat (2). Domains like .art, .club, .host, .top, .video totalize a single report for each one of them.

About top level domains: national (total 1,325), are on top as previously mentioned, with a preponderance of the .com domain among the generic ones. Emerging countries: USA (613 .us domain reports), Philippines (215 .ph domains), Montenegro (93 .me).

**CONTINENTS, ONLINE RANKING: AMERICAS, ASIA, EUROPE, OCEANIA, AFRICA** – Americas (621 domains), Asia (364), Europe (249), Oceania (55), Africa (36).

**AMERICA AND EUROPE SERVER HEADQUARTERS** – Servers geolocation graphs highlight that America (3,849 links) and Europe (699 links) hold the majority of companies that manage the servers allowing the operation of many sites or platforms containing and selling child pornography. This data is interesting because it helps us understand the underlying economic mechanism: richest continents appear to be the "masters of the web," providers of services that cyberpedophiles use for their criminal trafficking.

Analyzing the graph of the geolocation of the servers in Asia, Africa and Oceania, it is clear that the presence of the servers in states belonging to these continents is almost irrelevant. In 2023 Africa and Oceania totalized 0 links, Asia 7 links.

**(CONTINUED)**

**PEDOPHILIA/ METER REPORT 2023: 5,745 CHILD PORNOGRAPHY LINKS REPORTED. MORE AND MORE VICTIMS: NEWBORNS AND MINORS BETWEEN 3 AND 12 YEARS. 220 CASES FOLLOWED BY THE LISTENING CENTER. ABUSE OF DISABLED PEOPLE IS INCREASING. FATHER DI NOTO: «THE CHALLENGE AGAINST PEDOCRIMINALITY IS NOT A GAME.» (2)**

**TRENDS. ABUSE OF DISABLED CHILDREN, PEOPLE AND INFANTS, CHILD ABUSE OF CHILDREN, SEXUAL ABUSE WITH ANIMALS** – OS.MO.CO.P. found that **many young people with disabilities** are contacted on social networks, circuits and induced to produce sexually explicit material, often with extortionate requests under the threat of disclosing the pornographic material. **Disabled children experience higher**

**rates of violence** because their state of dependence on those who care for them puts them at risk and because of the difficulty in interpreting the environment around them and communicating their experiences. and lived.

**Pedomama** (female sexual abuse) trend is worrying: women and mothers who commit sexual abuse against minors, **many newborns are tortured and sexually abused.**

**Child pornography movies with the presence of animals** are increasing, especially dogs who, induced, perform sexual acts on minors, it is often self-produced material in family contexts.

Finally, **child abuse of minors.** They are often male, mostly teenagers, in self-produced videos. They commit violence against minors, even in groups.

**WHAT ABOUT VICTIMS? THE 8/12 YEAR AGE RANGE IS MUCH REQUESTED (PHOTO AND VIDEO), FOLLOWED BY THOSE BETWEEN 3/7. INCREASE IN NEWBORNS** - This year too, the analysis of child pornography material that *Meter* finds online confirms last year's trend: links monitored by age group indicate that the preference for both photos and videos is for the age group age 8/12, which totals 3,873 monitored links (1,649,946 photos, 558,172 total videos). This is followed by the 3/7 year group with 1,708 (458,223 photos, 93,151 videos), and the 0/2 year group totalizes 304 (383 photos, 173 videos). It should be noted that the difference between monitoring data and totals by age group is attributable to the difficulty of detecting the actual age of some children because framing does not allow the distinction: that's why total photos being monitored are equal to 2,110,585 and by age group 2,108,552 while the videos are 651,527 in total against 651,496 in total by age group. We also remind you that, in any case, the reduction of total numbers is the result of the effects of the *deep web* which are increasingly felt thanks to its convenience in terms of speed and anonymity. Lacking of supranational rules and coordination between investigators then does the rest.

**METER LISTENING CENTRE: 220 REQUESTS IN 2023, ONLINE RISKS, ABUSE, NEURODEVELOPMENT DISORDER PREVAIL** – *Meter* has always tried to give hope to young victims of abuse by offering services to families who ask for intervention: among these the Listening and Counseling Centre which is – in fact – the beating heart of *Meter*. Here those who listen to each other and those who are listened come together to create a welcoming and safe environment. We work by offering hospitality, where there is never a lack of information on the service that those who turn to *Meter* are about to receive; attention follows, because the Listening Center offers time, discretion and understanding of problems; guidance for the choice of possible interventions on an effective level. **In 2023, Listening Center accepted 220 requests for the protection of minors: 67 cases related to online risks** (27 cases of online safety, 20 online solicitation, 17 child pornography, 2 internet addiction, 1 cyberbullying with the involvement of 11 minors); **52 cases concern child abuse** (26 sexual abuse, 18 sexual abuse in the past, 3 psychological abuse, 2 witnessed violence and 2 child-child abuse, 1 maltreatment); 36 cases of neurodevelopmental disorder, 19 anxiety disorder, 6 depression, 5 psychotic disorder, 3 eating disorder, 1 attachment disorder, 1 substance dependence, 1 posttraumatic stress disorder. 20 cases of dysfunctional family relationships, 7 emotional relational difficulties, 2 cases of bereavement.

Welcoming and listening also takes place via the toll-free number (800 455 270): in 2023 we offered 80 psychological and 46 psychoeducational consultations.

**ONLINE GAMES AND ADDICTION** – The continuous and systematic use of video games during free time (therefore in the evening on weekdays) as a substitute for alternative relational activities in the family context

generates a tendency towards isolation and closure towards parental figures . Virtual gaming often represents an alternative reality and a way to escape from the context around youngest people. This state of well-being and pleasure that online gaming provides for prolonged periods can potentially generate a state of dependence in young people. And here too the risk of solicitation is not lacking: often the minor is asked for telephone contact, and is asked to move the conversation from the video game to a private dimension. You ask for nude photos, or you try to create an emotional relationship.

**CHILD CRIME MAKES USE OF AI** – Child pornographers have already been working for some years to produce videos and photos of “false representations” of abuse of children with the help of Artificial Intelligence. Stuff produced is immediately available for pedophiles on the *deep web* and dark web. Some server providers hosting this AI-produced material have removed both the videos and photos.

**CULTURAL PEDOPHILIA** – The big picture has remained unchanged. The pedophilia support network is a real structured and well-organized lobby (fundraising and international pro-pedophilia day) which provides advice on how to lure children and indicates online sites where it is possible to find photos and videos with child pornography content. Meter has denounced numerous lobbies and pro-pedophilia movements throughout the world.

**TRAINING MEETINGS: 48,000 PEOPLE MET IN 2023** – Last year *Meter* recorded 146 meetings. From 2002 to 2023, 2,975 meetings were held. *Meter* professionals have dealt with pedophilia and the dangers of the Net: analysis of the profiles of pedophiles and victims, dynamics of the phenomenon, psychological aspects of the pedophile, consequences for the victim, risks that the Internet and technology hide (cyberbullying, sexting, sextortion, grooming , body shaming) and online education and safety.

**SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES** – In 2023 we met over 25,000 teachers, students and their families, promoting research projects and scientific collaborations in neuroscience, law, developmental age and the topics in question.

(CONTINUED)

**PEDOPHILIA/ METER REPORT 2023: 5,745 CHILD PORNOGRAPHY LINKS REPORTED. MORE AND MORE VICTIMS: NEWBORNS AND MINORS BETWEEN 3 AND 12 YEARS. 220 CASES FOLLOWED BY THE LISTENING CENTER. ABUSE OF DISABLED PEOPLE IS INCREASING. FATHER DI NOTO: «THE CHALLENGE AGAINST PEDOCRIMINALITY IS NOT A GAME.» (3)**

**METER AND THE CHURCH: TRAINING COURSES FOR THE FAITHFUL AND PRIESTS** – In 2023 *Meter* continued to be present in the ecclesial realities that requested it both for training and awareness-raising, and to respond to requests for help and specialist consultancy. Topics addressed in training meetings concern the world of childhood, in particular pedophilia and online risks (26 meetings). We met **17 dioceses**, 1,200 priests, religious men and women, seminarians and 6,000 faithful. **Alleged victims of abuse (minors and vulnerable adults) by clerics who turned to the Meter Listening Center were welcomed and accompanied in the process of psychological and psychotherapeutic, legal (canonical and criminal) support and directed to the Minors Protection Service of the Dioceses to which they belong.**

**GBV CHILDREN VICTIMS DAY** - The Day of Children Victims of violence, exploitation and indifference,

against pedophilia (**GBV**), was established in 1996 and is currently celebrated nationally and internationally from April 25<sup>th</sup> to the first Sunday of May. In 2024 the **XXVIII GBV**, after various national initiatives, as usual, will end on May 5<sup>th</sup> in St. Peter's Square, Rome.

**FATHER DI NOTO: 2023 CONFIRMS THAT THE CHALLENGE AGAINST PEDOCRIMINALITY IS NOT A GAME** – Father Fortunato Di Noto, founder and president of *Meter*, declares: «Child pornography is not just videos and images, it is the dramatic reality of abuses already suffered. It destroys the present and compromises the future. Fighting against paedocrime, which is increasingly structured and well organized online, requires national and international collaboration. It is urgent to intervene to identify paedocriminals, without forgetting the action of identifying victims who need to be psychologically supported. – Father Di Noto concludes: Society must acquire greater awareness of the devastating drama of child abuse, through prevention, awareness and training actions.»

**Report 2023, Report 2023 Summary, Press release, video and photos available on:**

<https://associazionemeter.org/chi-siamo/report-annuali/>

www.associazionemeter.org

segreteria@associazionemeter.org

Phone +39 0931 564872

