



## **ACTION POUR LES ENFANTS**

Office: #19, Street 318, Sangkat Toul Svay Prey,

Khan Chamkamon, Phnom Penh

Tel: +855 12 584 194

E-mail: [directoraple@yahoo.com](mailto:directoraple@yahoo.com)

---

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**10 November 2006**

#### **RE: BELGIAN NATIONAL CONVICTED OF DEBAUCHERY IN CAMBODIA**

The Phnom Penh Municipal Court today convicted Belgian national Philippe Dessart of debauchery and sentenced him to eighteen (18) years in prison. Dessart was arrested in April 2006 for the sexual abuse of a thirteen (13) year old Cambodian boy.

Dessart had been previously convicted of sexual abuse charges against three underage boys in Belgium in 1994. He served only three (3) years of a five (5) year sentence in his country.

"We hope this conviction and sentence serves as a warning to traveling sex offenders who intend to visit Cambodia in order to sexually exploit Cambodian children. They will no longer be able to act in this country with impunity," said Action Pour Les Enfants Country Director Katherine Keane.

"Action Pour Les Enfants is pleased with the outcome of the trial. We do however believe it clearly demonstrates that traveling sex offenders are not only the responsibility of destination countries, but also source countries. If Mr Dessart had received a longer sentence for his crimes in Belgium, he would not have been able to travel to Cambodia and sexually abuse a child here. States must take greater responsibility for their citizens who are known to represent a danger to others," said Miss Keane.