

# Media Statement



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**TO: ALL MEDIA**

**DATE: 13 FEBRUARY 2016**

**RE: PAEDOPHILE SENTENCED TO LIFE**

The Johannesburg High Court sentenced a paedophile to 32 life terms and 117 years imprisonment which were ordered to run concurrently.

Warren Troy Knoop pleaded guilty and entered into a plea and sentence agreement with the state in terms of section 105 A of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977 and was convicted accordingly on Friday, 10 February 2017.

State Advocate, Riana Williams entered into the plea and sentence agreement with the view of securing a sentence that has reasonable prospects of passing judicial muster. She went as far as pleading with the court to impose a sentence in excess of the prescribed minimum sentence due to the severity of the offences perpetrated by the convict against minors.

The court ruled that the plea and sentence agreement was just, as it met the basic elements as stipulated in the act. The court found that the state and the defence entered the negotiations in good faith with the aim of ensuring that justice prevails. The court was satisfied that consultations with the victims and/or their families, the investigation officer and the defence were conducted by the prosecutor, wherein the accused was notified of their rights as per standard requirements of a plea and sentence agreement.

The court then confirmed the sentence as proposed in the plea and sentence agreement and sentenced the convict for 867 counts of, amongst others, using a child for purposes of child pornography, rape, sexual assault, and distribution of child pornography.

The NPA is satisfied that the sentence will send a strong message that pleading guilty does not qualify any accused person to leniency and that our courts are capable of protecting citizens against violent crimes.

Justice in our society, so that people can live in freedom and security

Kind Regards,

**Hurbetin Phindi Louw**

**Regional Spokesperson: DPP South Gauteng**

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