



WIKINEWS

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Top Stories

Wikimedia, IWF respond to block of Wikipedia over child pornography allegations

Some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the United Kingdom, are filtering access to an image and an article on the popular, free online encyclopedia Wikipedia, amid allegations that they contain child pornography. The filter was implemented by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), which issued a statement regarding the filtering. Wikimedia, the host of Wikinews also issued a statement, opposing the IWF.

Wikipedia Current Events

•The Constitutional Court of Thailand dissolves three parties in the ruling coalition, and Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat resigns.

US F-18 fighter jet crashes in San Diego residential area

According to the Associated Press, a United States Navy F-18 fighter jet has crashed into a house in a residential area in San Diego, California, near University City High School. The crash occurred around 12:00 p.m. (pacific time) as the plane was preparing for landing at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

United Kingdom, were filtering access to an image and an article on the popular, free online encyclopedia Wikipedia, amid allegations that they contain child pornography. The filter was brought into play by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), which issued a statement regarding the filtering shortly after Wikinews published the article. Wikimedia, the host of Wikinews and Wikipedia oppose the IWF's actions, also issuing a statement.

"A Wikipedia web page, was reported through the IWF's online reporting mechanism in December 2008. As with all child sexual abuse reports received by our Hotline analysts, the image was assessed according to the UK Sentencing Guidelines Council (page 109). The content was considered to be a potentially illegal indecent image of a child under the age of 18, but hosted outside the UK," said the IWF in a statement posted on their website.

The image and article in question is that of the 1976 album *Virgin Killer*, a studio album by the Scorpions, a German rock band. The controversy began after the image of the album's original cover, which depicted a naked prepubescent girl, was reported to the IWF in early December. Wikinews first discovered the controversial image in May 2008 after there were several attempts to delete it on Wikipedia. The image had been blocked because the IWF considered it to be "potentially illegal". As a result,

Wikipedia Current Events

Anti-police riots break out in Athens and several cities across Greece.

•Ireland issues an international recall of its pork products following the discovery of contaminated pig feed.

•Patriarch Alexy II, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, dies of heart failure in Peredelkino, Russia.

•A bombing kills 29 people and injures more than 100 in Peshawar, Pakistan.

•At the request of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Governor General of Canada Michaëlle Jean prorogues the parliament until January 26, 2009, to avoid a confidence motion by a newly-formed coalition of opposition parties.

Reports say that the pilot was able to eject from the plane before it crashed and is believed to have suffered only minor injuries. At least two people on the ground were killed.

Eye witness Joe Kreisler told the LA Times, "It was chugging along with what seemed like one engine. Then I heard a roar of engine and all of a sudden, woop, dead silence." At least one house burned down as a result of the crash.

Authorities and military officials are investigating the cause of the crash.

Wikimedia, IWF respond to block of Wikipedia over child pornography allegations

On December 7, Wikinews first reported that some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the

the IWF have contacted authorities in the United States and in the UK.

The measures applied redirect Wikipedia-bound traffic from a significant portion of the UK's Internet population through a small number of servers which can log and filter the content that is available to the end user. A serious side-effect of this is the inability of administrators on Wikimedia sites to block vandals and other troublemakers without potentially impacting hundreds of thousands of innocent contributors who are working on the sites in good faith.

Contributors or individuals attempting to view an affected image or file, depending on their ISP, may get a warning saying, "we have blocked this page because, according to the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF), it contains indecent images of children or pointers to them; you could be breaking UK law if you viewed the page.". Other ISPs provide blank pages, 404 errors, or other means of blocking the content.

Wikimedia was not informed that the image would be blacklisted because the IWF "does not issue takedown notices to ISPs or hosting companies outside the UK". The servers for Wikimedia projects are located in Florida in the U.S., and according to Jay Walsh, the head of communications for Wikimedia, the Foundation "opposes" the action taken by the IWF.

"The IWF has confirmed to the Wikimedia Foundation that it has added Wikipedia to its blacklist, which also had the unintended consequence of rendering UK-based internet users unable to edit the encyclopedia," said Walsh.

"We did advise one of our partner Hotlines abroad and our law enforcement partner agency of our assessment. The specific URL (individual webpage) was then added to the list provided to ISPs and other companies in the online sector to protect their customers from inadvertent exposure to a potentially illegal indecent image of a child," added the statement by the IWF.

"We have no reason to believe the article, or the image contained in the article, has been held to be illegal in any jurisdiction anywhere in the world. We believe it's worth noting that the image is currently visible on Amazon, where the album can be freely purchased by UK residents. It is available on thousands of websites that are accessible to the UK public," said Mike Godwin, legal counsel for Wikimedia. The cover has since been removed from Amazon.com.

Wikimedia projects such as Wikinews state in their policies that they are "not censored". Wikimedia will continue discussions with the IWF in hopes of resolving the issue.

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Details emerge of Honda's withdrawal from Formula One

More details have emerged over the weekend after the surprise announcement last week of Honda's intention to sell its Formula One racing team, Honda Racing F1. The team management, Nick Fry and Ross Brawn, have already announced confidence in their ability not only to find a buyer for the team but also to deliver the performance expected of Honda's 2009 car. Prices as low as £1 have been put forward as possible prices tags for the

Northampton based team, with Honda CEO Takeo Fukui stating that "Just to make the team possible to exist, a small price tag is acceptable".

On Saturday the Japanese car giant said that before selling the team it was going to offer British driver Jensen Button, who had given the Honda team its only victory, a way out of his recently signed multi-million pound contract with the team so he could try to get a drive with other teams. However, Ross Brawn appears eager to retain the Briton and either retain Brazilian Rubens Barrichello or sign GP2 driver Bruno Senna, nephew of legendary racer Ayrton Senna. At an industry awards dinner, Button indicated his desire for a buyer to be found for Honda, saying any buyer would get "... a great team with excellent facilities. And with the leadership of Ross Brawn, and the whole team as they are, we can come through this and be on the grid in 2009". Button has also spoken of his shock and pain at Honda's decision.

Ross Brawn, who was brought into the Honda team with much fan fare before the 2008 season, has spoken of his shock at finding out about the sale of the team. Brawn, who is credited with helping Michael Schumacher and Ferrari dominate Formula One for much of the last decade, indicated he was expected funding cuts and had prepared a reduced budget but hadn't expected the full withdrawal of support that Honda announced. Brawn has also indicated understanding of Honda's reasoning, with their sales down 40% in some markets and Honda F1's £200m+ budget a cost they were unwilling to bear.

Though Honda has committed to

providing a budget for the team until March, the budget is lower than that which had been expected and so the team has had to pull out of the crucial winter tests at Jerez. This has denied Formula One hopeful Bruno Senna another test with the team and has combined with the engine implications of Honda's withdrawal to push the new car's final testing from January to March, just weeks before the first Grand Prix in Australia. Ross Brawn however remains confident of competing with new Formula One frontrunners BMW Sauber and Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone has tipped the team as a great buy, saying "I've no doubt Honda would have been in top four next year without any problems. They've spent a lot of money to put themselves in that position so if anyone does want to be in F1 this is a team they should look to buy. It's a big opportunity for any company that's run efficiently to benefit".

Australian PM announces public affairs channel

Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd launched the Australian Subscription Public Affairs Network today. The channel, a production of Sky News and subscription television providers Foxtel and Austar is modeled on the United States' C-SPAN channel. Broadcasts will commence January 20, 2009.

The initiative is solely funded by industry with no contribution from the government.

The network will be available on subscription television, the Internet and digital free-to-air television and will show sittings of Federal parliament as well as the United States Congress, New Zealand parliament, British House

of Commons and state parliaments in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

Live speeches at the National Press Club will also be covered.

A-SPAN has also entered into a deal to show Australian politics on the US C-SPAN network.

Prime Minister Rudd said that A-SPAN will give a "fly-on-the-wall" perspective of politics, in the same vein as C-SPAN in the US. He said A-SPAN is "a good thing for our democracy" and that "it's a superb initiative".

Mr Rudd conceded that the channel will be popular among fans of politics.

"Political junkies will of course love it, they'll now have one more way to drive their family and friends absolutely mad," Mr Rudd said.

Mr Rudd said he looked forward to introducing Australian English from the parliament of Australia to an international audience.

New Zealand Parliament reconvenes after election

The New Zealand Parliament met today for the first time following the recent general election.

Three senior judges, led by Chief Justice Sian Elias, formally opened the session.

The members were formally sworn in, and the National Party took control of the government benches. National MP Lockwood Smith was unanimously elected Speaker.

Parliament will reconvene tomorrow for the formal state opening by the Governor-General, and the speech from the Throne,

in which the government will lay out its legislative programme.

The November 8 election saw National win a victory over the Labour Party and form a minority government with the support of ACT and the Māori Party.

New sub-population of critically endangered species of monkey found

Biologists from Fauna and Flora International say that they had discovered up to twenty critically endangered monkeys in a remote forest in northwestern Vietnam.

The group, which belongs to the species of Tonkin snub-nosed monkeys, included three infant monkeys, an indication that they were breeding and increasing in their numbers.

Before the discovery, less than 250 of the animals were thought to inhabit the planet.

India announces \$4 billion stimulus package

India has announced that it will release a stimulus package worth \$4 billion, or 200 billion rupees, to help its economy, as the global economic slowdown continues.

This comes as the Reserve Bank of India cut its key interest rate by 1%, from 7.5% to 6.5%, on Saturday to, encourage more spending. The rates are at their lowest since June of 2006. This is the third time since October that the bank has cut its rates.

Business confidence in India has also been lowered after an attack on Mumbai last week left at least 170 people dead.

High turnout in Ghanian elections

Officials say that a high turnout

has been recorded for elections for president and parliament in Ghana.

Despite long queues at polling stations, the election has been reported as peaceful. 12.4 million voters, approximately half the country's population, have cast their ballots.

"Voter turnout is going to be very high," said Electoral Commission Chairman Kwadwo Afari-Gyan. "I should expect a higher number than we saw in the last elections because I could see this one is very competitive." Turnout in 2004 was a record 85%.

The election results are expected to come in on Monday.

Sudan deploys more troops to oil-rich state

The army of Sudan has deployed additional troops to the state of Kordofan, which is rich in oil. The army told state media that it wanted to prevent "feverish attempts" to attack the area by Darfur rebels, members of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

The army's announcement comes just days after officials in semi-autonomous southern Sudan accused the north of creating a large force in southern Kordofan over the period of the last three weeks.

The Sudanese army has been on alert since JEM launched an unprecedented attack on the Sudanese capital of Khartoum in May of this year.

Walmart.com to stock up on Wiis starting Monday

On December 7, 2008, Walmart.com announced that it will have thousands of Wiis in

stock online starting Monday. The console will be sold for \$249.24 alone, or for \$329 in a "value bundle," which includes the Wii console and other Wii items such as an extra pair of controllers.

The Wii has been one the most popular electronic items this season. On Black Friday, retailers ran out of stock, forcing consumers to go online to sites such as Yahoo! Shopping, eBay, and other big retailer sites.

By nightfall on Friday, the Wii console sold out on all big retailer sites including Walmart.com, BestBuy.com, and CircuitCity.com.

Today in History

536 - Byzantine General Belisarius enters Rome while the Ostrogothic garrison peacefully leaves the city, returning the old capital to its empire.

1835 - The Republic of Texas captures San Antonio, Texas.

1897 - Activist Marguerite Durand founds the feminist daily newspaper, *La Fronde* in Paris.

1935 - Walter Liggett American newspaper editor and muckraker killed in gangland murder.

1990 - Lech Wałęsa becomes the first directly elected president of Poland.

Quote of the Day

The wit makes fun of other persons; the satirist makes fun of the world; the humorist makes fun of himself, but in so doing, he identifies himself with people — that is, people everywhere, not for the purpose of taking them apart, but simply revealing their true nature. ~ James Thurber

Word of the Day

Torschlusspanik n

1. The fear that time is

running out to act,
specifically in regards to a
border closing.

About Wikinews

We are a group of volunteer journalists whose mission is to create a diverse community where citizens from around the globe (including **you**) can collaborate to report the news on a wide variety of current events. By making our content perpetually available for free redistribution and use, we hope to contribute to a global digital commons.

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