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EXPOSED: CRIMES ON THE HIGH SEAS

The National Museum of Crime and Punishment showcases crimes at sea in new temporary exhibit

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This summer, the **National Museum of Crime and Punishment (NMCP)** dives deeper into the dark tragedies happening in our oceans every day. Partnering with Greenpeace and the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), the museum has created the new temporary exhibit “Crimes Against Sea Life,” exposing crimes on the high seas. Although crimes against sea life are an ever-expanding issue with many areas of focus, this exhibit will highlight global illegal fishing (commonly called pirate fishing), Japanese whaling, and crimes against coral reefs.

“For over three decades Greenpeace has mounted at sea expeditions to expose and confront activities that are destroying our oceans,” states Phil Radford, Executive Director, Greenpeace USA. “Greenpeace is very excited to be partnering with the National Museum of Crime and Punishment to bring the ‘out of sight – out of mind’ nature of crimes against sea life out into public view.”

The Greenpeace display will focus mainly on two crimes against sea life; pirate fishing and illegal whaling by the Japanese in the southern ocean whale sanctuary. The exhibit will feature Greenpeace photo documentation from their ships as they confront Japanese whalers in the Southern Ocean. Utilizing graphic photography and artifacts, some of the most horrendous crimes committed on the sea will be brought to light for museum visitors throughout the summer.

While the Greenpeace artifacts and photos focus specifically on sea crimes, CORAL utilizes the exhibit space to shed light on Coral Reef CSI, a unique initiative designed for underwater natural resource investigations. Using forensic science techniques that have been modified for use underwater, the Coral Reef CSI program provides resource managers with the tools, strategies, and specialized training required to investigate coral reef damage and collect evidence that will stand up in court. “These investigative activities are an important part of ensuring effective stewardship of our coral reef resources,” states Rick MacPherson, Interim Executive Director and Conservation Programs Director at the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL). “CORAL and the Coral Reef CSI program are delighted to partner with the Crime and Punishment Museum to raise awareness about crimes against coral reefs and the need to protect these valuable and fragile ecosystems.”

“Crimes Against Sea Life” will be available for public viewing from June 20th until Labor Day Weekend 2011.

Images of the exhibit can be seen at the National Museum of Crime & Punishment’s Picasa page:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/116298621349351433714/CrimesAgainstSeaLife?feat=directlink>

Photo credits: National Museum of Crime & Punishment.

Please email lisa@bwfcom.com for high resolution photography.

About the National Museum of Crime & Punishment

The NMCP’s mission is to provide guests of all ages with a memorable insight into the history of crime, crime fighting and solving, and the consequences of committing a crime in America through a captivating interactive, entertaining, and educational experience. Some of the attractions include a CSI Experience, a high-speed chase simulator and FBI shooting range, Americas Most Wanted studio, and a room where visitors can try to hack into a computer, crack a safe and test their Wild West shooting range. The museum is located on 7th Street NW between E and F Streets in downtown Washington, D.C. at the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro (Arena exit). Learn more at www.crimemuseum.org.

About Greenpeace

Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organization that acts to change attitudes and behavior, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace. Greenpeace has 28 independent national/regional offices in over 40 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, as well as a coordinating body, Greenpeace International. Learn more at <http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/en/>.

About the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)

The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) is an international non-profit organization that unites communities to save coral reefs. By providing education, tools, and inspiration to help local communities become passionate stewards of their reefs, CORAL is building a worldwide network of well-managed marine protected areas and sustainable businesses that benefit both coral reefs and people. The Coral Reef CSI program, which arose from the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) Working Group on Coral Reef Enforcement and Investigation, was designed in 2006 as a way for coral reef managers, enforcement officers, investigators, and natural resource trustees to receive training in underwater natural resource investigative techniques. The training program encourages investigation, mitigation, and prosecution success for natural resource injury events and is generating regional and national level commitments for improved coral reef investigation and enforcement. The program’s web resources and tools are available at www.coral.org/coral_reef_csi.

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