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## Four men admit role in child abuse ring

Four men have admitted taking part in a paedophile ring which systematically abused children around the UK.

The men, whose depraved organisation published a guide book on how to win the trust of children before abusing them, are facing heavy sentences after pleading guilty to a catalogue of serious sexual charges.

Following an operation by the Metropolitan Police's paedophile unit, thousands of pictures and hundreds of videos and magazines showing young children being abused were recovered.

The men pleaded guilty to offences at the Old Bailey including indecent assault, unlawful sexual intercourse and the taking and distribution of indecent photographs of children.

They were granted bail and are due to be sentenced next month although a date has yet to be set.

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Marshall, senior investigating officer, said the men referred to young children as their "hobby".

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"These were manipulative and calculating men who preyed on their victims," he said.

Operation Doorknock began in April 2000 when officers raided Keith Romig's home in Leyton, east London. Julian Levene was arrested shortly afterwards at his home in Northolt, Middlesex.

Further searches led to the arrest of two other men - Leslie Baldwin of Kensington, west London and Trevor Mellis, a retired dentist from Otley, West Yorkshire.

*Story filed: 21:06 Friday 15th February 2002*

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