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Ananova :

British paedophile gets 12-year prison sentence

A British businessman has been jailed for 12 years in Romania after being convicted of having sexual relations with minors and of possession of a gun.

Neil Mason, 54, was arrested in May in Brasov after police filmed him in bed with a 16-year-old Romanian youth.

Police had placed hidden cameras in Mason's apartment a year ago after obtaining a warrant from prosecutors.

The court found Mason guilty on Monday on four counts of sexual relations with minors, and one count of illegal possession of a gun, said Chief judge Todor Olariu of the Brasov court.

Mason allegedly had sex with several children aged 10 to 16. Romanians are minors until they are 18.

Mason, a businessman and poet, has denied the charges. He was also ordered to pay around £3,250 to each of his victims.

In June, Mason tried to commit suicide in his cell but was stopped by fellow inmates.

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He told police he did not want to spend time in a Romanian prison, fearing mistreatment from other prisoners.

Mason's lawyers can appeal the verdict.

He moved to Brasov in 2000 and founded Mason Service Ltd. The exact nature of the company was not known.

Story filed: 14:47 Tuesday 15th January 2002

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