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Monday August 6 2007 $1.20 Freight: (Auckland, South Island) $1.40

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LION TAMERS

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Jones said police staff who had forwarded the e-mail had technically breached internal computer policies.

"Well intentioned" staff who had done so would not face disciplinary action but would be reminded to "take care around such matters".

Attached to the petition are five photographs of the dead boy. The pictures, which were presented as evidence in the High Court, are too graphic for *The Dominion Post* to publish.

Justice Graham Lang ordered the photos to be released to the media at the end of the trial to publicise the harm caused by child abuse.

Dr Kiro said that, despite everyone's best intentions, there would be no way of controlling who saw the pictures or how they were used once they were placed on the Internet.

However, Inspector Richard Middleton, who led the police investigation into Ngatikaura's death, said circulating the photos could have a positive effect. "The case was very disturbing in view of the amount of violence used against a defenceless three-year-old. Anything that raises awareness and prevents it happening again is great."

The petition organiser did not respond to interview requests, but in a message attached to the petition said it was time to act.

"Not only is this case preposterous, it sets a precedent for cases to come. I believe each and every one of us should have a say, and if we stand together on this we will make a difference," she said.

The petition seeks 1000 online signatures with the aim of presenting it to Parliament.

Dr Kiro said the petition was vague and the organisers had not explained what "harsher sentences" meant. She said her office was working on a project looking at the equivalence of sentences handed out for child abuse and similar crimes, such as home invasion and elder abuse.

NIA LATEST A5

Whanau honour fallen warrior

The warrior: Charles Sciascia, left, whose death led to the family pilgrimage 90 years later. Above: The Sciascia descendants at the stone erected to honour Charles and other Kiwis who fought at Flanders. Right: The inscription. Bottom: Charles, front row, right, next to brother John in the 1913 Maori All Blacks team.

MATT CALMAN

NINETY years after a young Maori soldier died on a Belgian battlefield, his whanau have made a bittersweet visit to the unveiling of his memorial.

Charles Rangiwawahia Sciascia left New Zealand in 1914 as a Maori All Black, the son of an Italian father and Maori mother. He would rise to the rank of sergeant, serving at Gallipoli and in France, before being sent to the western front in Belgium.

He went into battle for the last time at La Basseville on July 31, 1917, aged 25. The next day he was reported missing in action. His body was never found.

On the 90th anniversary of his death, nearly 40 of his descendants, mostly from the lower North Island, gathered in the town of Comines-Warneton to remember him.

But, on the day the whanau were preparing to honour Sergeant Sciascia, tragedy struck when a member of the party, 71-year-old Kit Perawiti, of Koputaroa, died.

Piri Sciascia, Victoria University's Pro Vice-Chancellor (Maori), said the death had turned the visit to his great-uncle's memorial into a bittersweet experience. "It was a very, very emotional time for the family. She was a dear member of the family."

Mr Sciascia said from Switzerland last night that the family was surprised to see their relative honoured in stone. "We had expected to go on to the battlefield and commemorate him in Maori style but we found a stone and monument with the flags of New Zealand, Belgium and Italy flying."

Local people paid for the memorial as a tribute to Kiwi soldiers, he said.

The visitors read out wartime letters Sergeant Sciascia and brother Jack wrote to their sister Margaret.

Charles Sciascia was born at Pencarrow Heads in 1891. His Italian father, Nicola, died after being gored by a bull and the family moved to Koputaroa, near Levin.

In 1908 Charles moved to Porangahau to help an uncle build and carve Te Poho o Kahungunu meeting house. He was a gifted rugby player and, with brother John, was picked for the Maori All Blacks in 1913.

Emergency wards 'already in disaster mode'