

PRESS RELEASE

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BI Nabs One of Japan's Most Wanted

PASAY CITY, Philippines—Agents of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) have arrested on Sunday a Japanese-German-Israeli fugitive wanted by Japanese authorities for infringement of the Copyright Law.

BI Intelligence Officer Bobby Raquepo, head of the Bureau's Fugitive Search Unit (FSU), identified the fugitive as 28-year-old Romi Hoshino a.k.a. Zakay Romi, who was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3. Subject was arrested on Sunday, 07 July 2019.

According to Raquepo, Hoshino was reportedly the manager of "Manga-Mura", an illegal viewing website of Japanese cartoons, popularly known as Manga, which operated from January 2016 to April 2018.

The Association of Copyrights of Japan estimated Manga-Mura's cost of damages to be approximately 320 billion yen (2.9 billion USD), which was said to be the worst violation in the history of the Copyright Law of Japan.

Raquepo said Hoshino was arrested on the strength of a mission order issued by BI Commissioner Jaime Morente following the request of the Embassy of Japan in Manila, who sought the BI's help in locating and arresting the fugitive. The operations, said Raquepo, was conducted in coordination with Tokyo Interpol.

"His presence in the country is a risk to public safety and security," said Morente. "We are in close coordination with our foreign counterparts who send us information about criminals who might be hiding in the Philippines. Upon knowledge, we immediately seek, arrest, and deport these fugitives," he added.

"The Japanese embassy informed us that they will conduct the necessary coordination with the Israeli and German Embassy regarding the fugitive's deportation to Japan," he added.

Hoshino will be detained at the BI detention facility in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City pending deportation proceedings. #