

INAUGURAL IJM Freedom Partners Podcast "Moving Forward From Here"

TRANSCRIPT – *As prepared for delivery*

Launch Date: 081210

TRT: 14:35

Elements:

Structural Transformation – Gary Haugen, Amy Roth

Investigation – Jeff Blom

Police Training – Bob Duffy

Intervention - Ally McKinney

Aftercare – Pranitha Timothy

Field Office Director - Patrick Stayton

00:00 – 00:04 Fade up music bed open (Sarah Groves/"When the Saints")

(sot/Gary Haugen) Hello and welcome to this inaugural podcast for our Freedom Partners. I'm Gary Haugen, President of International Justice Mission. I want to begin by expressing my sincere thanks and gratitude to you. The fact that you are listening to this podcast means that you have made a personal commitment to partner with us as we seek justice in some very dark places around the world. Some of you have been with us in this work for a while now; and some of you have recently joined us as a Freedom Partner. Together, you are part of a global movement defending the poor and oppressed, widows and orphans -- and creating a brighter future for communities once deeply darkened by sexual exploitation of children, slave labor and illegal land seizure.

For the next ten minutes we are going to take you on a journey around the world and into the daily operations of International Justice Mission. We want you -- our Freedom Partners -- to get to know some of the men and women doing the work that you make possible. This inaugural podcast will introduce you to some of your IJM partners on the frontlines of the battle against injustice. Your guide for this audio journey is IJM's Director of Media Relations, Amy Roth. She will share some reflections on her recent trip to Cambodia, and the IJM operations there. I am encouraged every day by IJM's worldwide team -- I hope you will be, too. Enjoy the trip.

NAT SOT CAMBODIA STREET SOUNDS

(sot/Amy Roth) Cambodia, home to 14 million people, is plagued by abject poverty, the AIDS epidemic, and an illegal sex industry that traps thousands of victims in its web -- most young women and girls.

NAT SOT GIRLS TALKING IN KHMER

Today girls like Kunthy and Mien are embracing the promise of their young lives. They have dreams...and a future. But that was not always the case.

When Kunthy was just 13, Mien only 14, they were trafficked, held by pimps, and violated *day after day* in a Cambodian brothel.

But life for these girls changed radically when IJM investigators – acting on a tip from the local community – intervened.

IJM's investigators painstakingly plan and prepare to enter brothels undercover, to talk to victims covertly, collecting crucial evidence to make a legal case against perpetrators. And armed with evidence, they partner with local law enforcement to enter brothels and bring girls out.

This is some of the most difficult work I've ever seen. Jeff Blom leads IJM's team of investigators in Southeast Asia, and knows it firsthand.

(sot/Jeff Blom) my first contact walking into a brothel was just pretty shocking to see the blank dead looks on the faces, just totally detachment from what their present world was like, and just the sadness in their eyes. And so that was my first experience doing this job and it was nothing I've ever seen anywhere in my 20-plus years of law enforcement in the U.S.

(sot/Amy Roth) Compelled to respond – Jeff now travels the world for IJM, sharing his years of experience with key local and national police departments...committed to protecting their societies' most vulnerable populations.

(sot/Jeff Blom)...we go in and we actually teach them the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct these investigations on their own and we teach them about ethics, we teach them about evidence collection, we teach them about dealing with victims conducting interviews, collecting intelligence, putting it altogether into an effective report and then conducting an actual rescue operation with the police. And so these are capacity building skills that will build their ability to conduct these long after we're gone.

This means local authorities and communities are equipped to bring the protections of the law for those who need them most – victims of violent oppression. Through capacity building, we see the fear equation begin to change – the vulnerable are no longer afraid, and perpetrators fear just consequences under the law. With this type of structural transformation – young girls will go free, and others will never know what it means to be a slave.

Bob Duffy, IJM's police training specialist, counts on this. He comes to IJM with more than 25 years of experience in law enforcement.

NAT SOT BOB DUFFY TEACHING IN POLICE TRAINING

(sot/Amy Roth) I caught up with Bob in Cambodia where he was training scores of police officers in advanced search techniques and evidence collection.

(SOT/Bob Duffy) 45:50 if one girl is rescued out, and we're doing a lot more than one girl with Cambodian police, and gets into aftercare, help them into society and reintegrated as a successful and valued member of society, it's worth everything we do.

(sot/Amy Roth) But in fact, in Cambodia and around the world, more than 230 victims of trafficking have been rescued from brothels and **other places of violence** in the first 10 months of 2008 alone. And dozens of pimps and perpetrators are behind bars or awaiting trial.

NAT SOT TBD

(sot/Amy Roth) Because injustice takes many forms around the world, IJM's response varies from country to country and community to community. In Uganda, IJM investigators concentrate on combating illegal land seizure. Its victims? Widows and orphans.

Without the assistance of IJM, so many in this vulnerable population would remain homeless, alone, and without any chance for justice or recourse.

(sot/Ally McKinney) My name is Ally McKinney and I'm the field office director for the International Justice Mission office in Uganda.

(sot/Amy Roth) Ally McKinney and her team of Ugandan investigators, advocates and social workers are based in the capital city of Kampala. It's a long way from the large corporate law firm in the U.S. where Ally once practiced. Today her clients are neither rich nor powerful.

(sot/Ally McKinney)...most people in Uganda are subsistence farmers so they are heavily dependent on the land for survival. And under Ugandan law, a widow has the right to inherit, along with her children, a large portion of her husband's estate. But routinely, widow's rights are disregarded, in fact, property grabbing is the norm in Uganda. Chase her away from her home... children. Her husband's relatives often even take away her children, believing that they belong to the man's side of the family. And so she can be left without her husband or her children, without her home, without any way to earn a living. She could literally be left with nothing.

(sot/Amy Roth) To change the status quo...Ally's team works with local pastors and authorities to do a very simple, but very difficult, thing in Uganda: uphold the law that protects the widow. In 2008, by October, IJM's staff in Africa had assured safety and a place to live for more than 200 victims of property grabbing – 55 in Uganda alone.

What does this mean? Widows now live in safety, a roof over their head, and the means to support their children, because Freedom Partners like you sent Ally – and her legal team – to protect them.

And you've done that in other places, too.

Pranitha Timothy, an aftercare specialist in our Mumbai office, one of four IJM offices in India, is on the **front lines** of this **movement**.

For years Pranitha saw hundreds of laborers working in the brick kilns of her village; but never knew they were slaves. **Today** she knows the brutal truth -- children, women, *even whole families*, are in indentured servitude...often because someone in the family took a **small** loan from a factory owner who had no intention of allowing them to repay it. Many slave owners will confess, they would far rather have the free slave labor the loan affords them than to ever have the loan repaid. And so whole generations become prisoners to loans as small as **25** U.S. dollars.

Pranitha has met many in this hopeless situation.

NAT SOT MUMBAI

(sot/Pranitha Timothy)...I met this old man --you could see the hard work on his face, wrinkled and --he told me that his grandfather had taken [inaudible] loan from the owner and he--his grandfather worked; he died. His father worked; he died. This man [Inaudible] worked and when we rescued him, his son, his daughter, his wife--they were all working. And that just blew me away because if it's true what I'm thinking that most of these facilities that there are people who look poor but are actually in slavery. ...It just reminded me that an entire generation was wiped out.

(sot/Amy Roth) Pranitha, with her IJM colleagues, has partnered with local Indian authorities to bring freedom to several families once locked away in brick kilns – and to see that they receive the government restitution they are entitled to as former slaves. Often they use that money to buy basic tools, empowering them to find legal, paying jobs and build new lives.

As an aftercare specialist, Pranitha walks with them as they face freedom. Some for the first time.

(sot/Pranitha Timothy)... The most difficult part of what we do in Aftercare is actually changing their mindset, changing them to believe that they are free, they can think for themselves, changing them to believe that they have a future, they can think about a future, they can dream about a future. It's not easy for them because inside of the facility they've been told when to eat, they've been told when to sleep, they've been told what to do and what they shouldn't do... The first thing

we tell them is life inside was difficult--your life outside is going to be even more difficult. But if you hold on you will do well.

NAT SOT CAMBODIA

(sot/Amy Roth) We end this journey where we began...in Cambodia.

Before moving to Phnom Penh, IJM'S Field Office Director, Patrick Stayton, served as **an assistant district attorney in Texas for more than a decade, prosecuting a wide range of criminal cases. Today**, Patrick is no stranger to the very real challenges of combating modern-day slavery; but he **also** knows that each step is one step closer to a tipping point in the battle ...and then, there's *no going back*.

(sot/Patrick Stayton)When you see changes and struggle and then you see small victories, they feel much bigger. This is lasting change that is beginning. This is a meaningful stake to drive in the ground, and say, we're moving forward from here.

NAT SOT CAMBODIA

(sot/Amy Roth) As you've heard from this array of voices across the IJM family -- because of your commitment, children are being rescued from brothels, widows and orphans are returning to their homes, and entire families once held in slavery are being set free.

Amazing changes are taking place not only in the lives of individuals, but in police departments and courtrooms around the world. Committed local authorities are strengthening rule of law in their countries. Police, equipped with new skills, are out-powering traffickers. Perpetrators who abuse the weak and vulnerable are being called to account. And judges who have served the interests of the powerful **are now** tuning their ears to the cries of the oppressed.

Jeff, Bob, Pranitha, Ally and Patrick -- they are just a few of the remarkable people whose work you're making possible every day. And **their** stories are **your** stories - - because you, and your support and prayers, have made them possible. So, I encourage you to share this podcast with your friends and family. Let them come to know IJM as you do; and let them know that real change is taking shape in Cambodia and India and Uganda and in all of the 12 countries where you can find IJM on the frontlines of the fight for freedom and justice.

And all of us here at IJM, thank you, our Freedom Partners, for your faithful support.

11:50- 12:00 Music bed up full and plays out. (Sarah Groves/"When the Saints")

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