



INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION®

PROSECUTING PERPETRATORS IS ‘SILVER BULLET’ IN STOPPING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

International Justice Mission witnesses growing impact of TIP report

ARLINGTON, VA June 6, 2006 – In response to today’s release of the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, International Justice Mission underscores the report’s attention on immediate rescue and rigorous prosecution as key steps to combat modern forms of human trafficking and slavery, including the global epidemic of “rape for profit.”

“We commend the State Department for its release of comprehensive data on prosecutions worldwide. Each of these convictions marks the only thing traffickers fear: hard jail time,” said Sharon Cohn, vice president of Interventions for IJM, an organization that combats trafficking by bringing immediate rescue to victims and seeks convictions of perpetrators under existing local laws. “When local authorities identify, capture and prosecute criminals, they send a strong message.”

“Additionally, we praise the 2006 Report’s right recognition of all forms of slavery including forced labor.”

International Justice Mission lawyers, investigators and social workers pursue a four-fold approach to combat human trafficking:

1. Victim Rescue: IJM conducts investigations and works with local police to locate and rescue victims of trafficking. In 2005 IJM provided information to local authorities that resulted in the rescue of 89 victims of forced prostitution in Malaysia, and to date has helped to release hundreds of sex slaves around the world.

2. Perpetrator Accountability: IJM conducts investigations and works with local law enforcement to build legal cases against perpetrators and obtain convictions. In January 2006 IJM worked to secure the first known trafficking convictions in the Dominican Republic.

3. Victim Aftercare: IJM social workers collaborate with NGO and government partners to ensure the proper aftercare of trafficking victims. Aftercare is a critical component to the recovery and reintegration of trafficking victims and to the successful prosecution of perpetrators.

4. Structural Prevention: IJM works with local agencies in preventative measures - providing training to police, legal documentation and other legal services. IJM has worked to provide citizenship documentation for thousands of residents of Northern Thailand who were previously undocumented and at-risk for trafficking.

About International Justice Mission

International Justice Mission is a human rights organization that rescues victims of violence, sexual exploitation, slavery and oppression. A multi-national team of law enforcement professionals and a highly qualified legal staff conduct criminal investigations and collect evidence to rescue victims and bring perpetrators to justice.

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