



# MANILA, PHILIPPINES

## THE PROBLEM CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING

Manila is the capital city, a major global port and the hub of the country's government, business and cultural institutions. But beyond the towering skyscrapers a devastating form of slavery called cybersex trafficking is on the rise. Pedophiles and predators send online payments to Filipino adults, in exchange for streaming live sexual abuse of young boys and girls. IJM has worked alongside Philippine authorities to combat slavery and sexual violence since 2000. Officials are ready to act but need specialized training to restrain criminals and stop cybersex trafficking from spreading.

## IJM MANILA PROGRESS



**650+**

survivors rescued from sex trafficking and child sexual abuse (2006-2016)



**130+**

criminals convicted for trafficking and sexual assault (since 2006)



**70+**

survivors rescued from cybersex trafficking (since 2016)



### THE FACTS

Worldwide, there are nearly **two million children** in the commercial sex trade.<sup>1</sup>

Human trafficking is a massive global enterprise, generating about **\$150 billion a year**—two-thirds from commercial sexual exploitation.<sup>2</sup>

Worldwide, about **80% of human trafficking victims are women and girls**, and up to 50% are minors.<sup>3</sup>



“We have waited a long time for this to happen...  
The experiences that I went through have  
taught me to stand up and to dream again”

-Cassie,\* a survivor of cybersex trafficking reacts to the news that  
the man who exploited her was convicted.

## How IJM Manila Combats Cybersex Trafficking

**We rescue victims** by helping Filipino authorities and international law enforcement agencies to identify and remove children from cybersex trafficking. Pedophiles anywhere in the world can pay to purchase child pornography or direct live sexual abuse.

**We bring perpetrators to justice.** We help police investigate and gather evidence so that traffickers and criminals facilitating online sexual exploitation are restrained. We help prosecutors press charges and build strong cases using all available evidence.

**We restore survivors** by creating individualized care plans for IJM clients. Cybersex trafficking victims can be under 2 years old, and there are more boys than in bar- or street-based trafficking. IJM social workers help place survivors in aftercare homes where they can return to school, take vocational classes, and receive ongoing therapy. In addition to providing direct client care, we are developing best practices and pioneering new tools for shelters handling cybersex trafficking cases.

**We strengthen justice systems** by providing hands-on mentoring for law enforcement, judges, and partner organizations that provide aftercare for sex trafficking survivors. The Philippines has strong anti-trafficking laws, and we are helping to train authorities on how to implement them against this new crime type.

### IJM MANILA MILESTONES

2000

#### IJM MANILA OPENS

2005

#### IJM'S FIRST CONVICTION

A man is sentenced to prison for raping a 13-year-old girl.

2012

#### IJM'S 100<sup>TH</sup> CONVICTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

2016

#### 75% FEWER MINORS SOLD FOR SEX

In a 7-year period, the number of minors available for commercial sex trafficking in Metro Manila plummeted by 75%.

2017

#### FIRST CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING CONVICTION

In IJM's first case of cybersex trafficking, a Filipino man is convicted for exploiting minors.



#### FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR REY BICOL

Rey joined IJM Manila in 2004 as a lawyer. He led IJM to prosecute more than 100 cases of sex trafficking and abuse. When the government invited IJM to open an office in Pampanga to combat commercial sex trafficking of minors, Rey joined as one of the key leaders. In just four years, the number of children being sold plummeted by 86%. He has returned to Manila and leads IJM's office to rescue children and restrain traffickers.



PO Box 58147  
Washington, DC 20037  
P 703.465.5495  
F 703.465.5499  
IJM.org

**INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION** is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems.

\*A pseudonym. Child pictured on cover is not an actual victim; image taken with consent. All text and images © 2018 International Justice Mission