



# BOLIVIA

## THE PROBLEM SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

**If you sexually assault a child in Bolivia, you are more likely to die slipping in the shower or bathtub than you are of going to jail for your crime.** The dismal odds of getting justice stop many families from ever trying, especially those living in poverty. Courts are backlogged, and the average case takes three to seven years. In the seven years before IJM opened an office, courts issued fewer than three convictions a year for child sexual assault. But in our first seven years located in the high-altitude city of La Paz, IJM has secured more than 50 convictions against rapists and violent criminals.

## IJM BOLIVIA PROGRESS SINCE 2006



**100+**

children rescued  
from sexual  
violence



**110+**

survivors currently  
receiving aftercare  
services from IJM



**50+**

criminals convicted for  
sexual violence and  
related crimes



### THE FACTS



An estimated **1 in 5 women** will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.<sup>1</sup>

For many poor girls, **school is the most common place where sexual violence occurs**—and the fear of violence is a common reason girls leave school.<sup>2</sup>

**Less than 15%** of Bolivian girls will seek help after a sexual assault.<sup>3</sup>



**“We relentlessly pursue results in court, and persevere in providing therapies so girls and boys are restored to wholeness.”**

–Greg Tarrant, Field Office Director

## How IJM Bolivia Combats Sexual Violence

**We rescue children** out of dangerous situations of sexual violence by working with local authorities. We receive case referrals from the department of social services, public prosecutor's office, churches and families. We ensure that every child is brought to a place of safety.

**We bring criminals to justice.** IJM investigators help police develop and track down leads to find and arrest the suspect. This can take months or even years, but it likely wouldn't happen at all if IJM was not involved. IJM lawyers help prosecutors collect evidence to build a strong case, and we help survivors who choose to share the truth in court prepare for their testimony.

**We restore survivors** by providing consistent support to the child and the family so she or he can heal in a safe and stable environment. IJM social workers or psychologists develop treatment plans for each survivor focusing on physical health, trauma-focused counseling, personal security, and education or economic self-sufficiency.

**We strengthen justice systems** by providing training and hands-on mentoring to law enforcement, judges and other professionals. We seek to improve the overall justice system so that it protects all child victims of violence, not just those IJM can help through individual cases.

### IJM BOLIVIA MILESTONES

2006

**IJM BOLIVIA OPENS**

2008

**FIRST CRIMINAL CONVICTED FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT IN IJM CASE**

2008

**SURVIVORS COMPLETE TRAUMA THERAPY**

The first group of survivors completed IJM's 10-step trauma therapy model and celebrated with a special graduation.

2014

**LONGEST SENTENCE**

In August, a man was sentenced to 25 years in prison for sexually assaulting a 9-year-old girl, the most substantial prison time in any IJM Bolivia case.

2014

**50<sup>TH</sup> CONVICTION SECURED IN IJM BOLIVIA CASE**



**FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR  
GREG TARRANT**

Greg leads IJM's team in Bolivia to combat sexual violence against children in partnership with local authorities. Greg first served with IJM in Uganda in 2010, defending widows and orphans whose land and livelihood had been stolen from them. He then returned to Washington, DC, and worked at IJM's headquarters as Senior Program Manager for Field Operations. He and his family moved to Bolivia in 2013.



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**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.

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