



CEBU, PHILIPPINES

THE PROBLEM CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING

Cybersex trafficking is a form of modern slavery that was unimaginable before the digital age. Cybersex trafficking is the live sexual abuse of children streamed via the internet, set up by adults who receive online payments from predators and pedophiles located anywhere in the world.

The Philippines government made rapid strides in its fight against sex trafficking since IJM arrived in Cebu in 2006. One independent study found 79% fewer children being sold for sex in metro Cebu after four years of IJM's collaborative work. Now, law enforcement officials need specialized training and support as they investigate and rescue children from cybersex trafficking, and survivors need specialized aftercare services and a long-term support system to thrive in freedom.

IJM CEBU PROGRESS SINCE 2006



600+

rescued from sex trafficking



65+

currently participating in our aftercare program



68

criminals convicted for sex trafficking crimes



THE FACTS

The Philippines receives **thousands of cybersex trafficking case referrals** a month from the U.S. alone.¹



52% of victims rescued in IJM cases are 1-12 years old. The average age of commercial sex trafficking victims was 16-17 years old.²

Pedophiles and predators pay **\$20 to \$150** for a "sex show" broadcast online.³



“Battling the evils of cybersex crimes is a present-day challenge that is so difficult to combat, not only because they are preying on young children, but because they are concealed right inside their homes.”

–Senior Police Inspector, Cebu

How IJM Cebu Combats Cybersex Trafficking

We rescue victims by helping Philippines authorities and international law enforcement agencies identify and remove children from the places and people who are forcing them to perform sex acts for live or recorded shows broadcast online.

We bring perpetrators to justice. We help police investigate and document evidence so criminals exploiting children in front of webcams and profiting from the abuse are restrained. We help prosecutors press charges and navigate the anti-trafficking and cybercrime laws so impunity ultimately ends and others are deterred.

We restore survivors by creating customized care plans for each child. Cybersex trafficking victims have unique needs, tend to be quite young, and there are more boys than in bar- or street-based trafficking. Many survivors need to spend time in a shelter before returning home to their family or community. In addition to providing direct care and counseling, we are developing best practices and pioneering new tools for shelters handling cybersex trafficking cases.

We strengthen justice systems by providing hands-on mentoring and training for law enforcement and court officials investigating and reviewing criminals cases, and we equip social services and partner organizations that provide aftercare for sex trafficking survivors.

IJM CEBU MILESTONES

2006

IJM CEBU OPENS

2007

HERSPACE ESTABLISHED

Innovated by IJM, this is a place where survivors receive crisis care immediately after rescue

2009

FIRST ANTI-TRAFFICKING UNIT

The Philippines' first anti-trafficking unit is established and trained by IJM

2010

79% DROP IN MINORS SOLD FOR SEX IN METRO CEBU

External study shows dramatic reduction in minors sold for sex after IJM's work with authorities

2016

IJM'S FIRST CONVICTION IN CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING CASE



FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR JOHN TANAGHO

John joined IJM in September 2014 as Deputy Field Office Director for IJM Cebu. Under his leadership, IJM has helped authorities rescue over 80 victims of sex trafficking, convict over 45 perpetrators, and has started taking on cybersex trafficking cases. John was previously an attorney in the Chicago area. He lives with his family in the Philippines.



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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.

*A pseudonym. All text and images © 2017 International Justice Mission