



# MANILA, PHILIPPINES

**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 has made rapid strides in its fight against sex trafficking since IJM arrived in Manila in 2000. An IJM study found that there are 75% fewer minors being sold for sex from streets and bars in the areas where we have worked with authorities. 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 MANILA PROGRESS SINCE 2000



**600**

women and children rescued from sexual violence



**175**

survivors of sexual abuse currently receiving aftercare services from IJM



**116**

criminals convicted for crimes related to sex trafficking or assault



### THE FACTS

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

**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.<sup>2</sup>

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



<sup>1</sup>Philippines Department of Justice, <sup>2</sup>IJM case data, <sup>3</sup>ibid.



“If I would see or hear there is a victim of human trafficking, like us, I just want to comfort her. Help her to move forward because that’s the start, where I stand now.”

-Cassie,\* rescued from cybersex trafficking in Manila

## How IJM Manila 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 MANILA MILESTONES

2000

#### IJM MANILA OPENS

2005

#### IJM'S FIRST CONVICTION

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

2010

#### SEX CRIMES PRIORITIZED

Sex trafficking cases are prioritized in a Supreme Court order to judges nationwide. There are 400% more convictions in the first quarter of 2011 than in the entire previous year.

2012

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

2016

#### 75% DROP IN MINORS SOLD FOR SEX IN METRO MANILA

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



#### FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR REY BICOL

Rey joined IJM in 2004 as a lawyer in Manila; he prosecuted the first human trafficking case filed against a public official in the Philippines and ultimately achieved a conviction. As Legal Director, he led IJM to prosecute over 100 cases of sex trafficking and abuse. When the government invited IJM to open an office in Pampanga in 2012, Rey led the team to great success: a study documented an 86% decrease in the number of minors being sold for sexual exploitation. Today, Rey leads IJM Manila in the fight against cybersex trafficking.



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.  
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