



IJM CASEWORK SERIES

CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING

Cybersex trafficking is a type of sex trafficking that was unimaginable before the digital age. Suddenly, children are exposed to a global web of predators.

Cybersex trafficking is the live-streaming sexual exploitation of children viewed over the internet. Pedophiles and predators anywhere in the world can now search online and wire a secure payment to an adult who sets up the show. Boys and girls—some under 2 years old—are abused or forced to perform sex acts in front of a webcam. The more abusive the show, the more the customer pays.

Unlike bars or brothels with a permanent address, cybersex trafficking victims can be moved to and abused in any location with an internet connection and a webcam, or just a mobile phone. Cybersex trafficking has become a terrifying cottage industry with high profit margins.

OUR IMPACT SINCE 2016 IN THE PHILIPPINES



306

Children rescued from cybersex trafficking



111

Criminals restrained from setting up and profiting from the sexual exploration of children via the internet



7,000+

Government officials and community members trained to protect children from cybersex trafficking

QUICK FACTS



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

47% of cybersex trafficking victims rescued by IJM and local authorities have been 12 years old or younger.²

The youngest victim rescued by IJM and local authorities has been a **2-month-old baby**.³



IJM is working with Philippine authorities and foreign law enforcement to protect children in the Philippines, but also to develop a replicable model that can stop cybersex trafficking from spreading globally.



IJM COMBATS CYBERSEX TRAFFICKING IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is a hotspot for cybersex trafficking because internet access is growing rapidly and English is widely spoken—making it easy for predators to set up sex shows directly.

IJM teams are located in the same hubs where the Philippine National Police anti-trafficking units are based, enabling us to assist with operations throughout the country.

“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

Meet Cassie

CASSIE* WAS 12 YEARS OLD when she was tricked into following a family friend 800 miles from her home to Manila. Instead of getting a good education and better life, Cassie was trapped in the center of a global cybersex trafficking racket.

For nearly five years Cassie and several others—including a 2-year-old—were subject to horrific abuse in front of a webcam. The man who had promised her a brighter future instead profited from customers located all around the world as they paid to view sexual abuse and violence streamed online.

“I used to always tell myself that they can hurt me...But my dream, they cannot get that,” Cassie said.”

IJM helped Philippine authorities to pinpoint Cassie’s location and rescue her and the others. The man who facilitated the exploitation for so many years has been brought to justice. Cassie is safe today. She lives in an aftercare home and meets regularly with her IJM social worker, making plans to reach her dreams.

**MANILA,
THE PHILIPPINES**
Est. 2000

**CEBU,
THE PHILIPPINES**
Est. 2006

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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. Child pictured on cover is not an actual victim; image taken with consent. All text and images © 2019 International Justice Mission