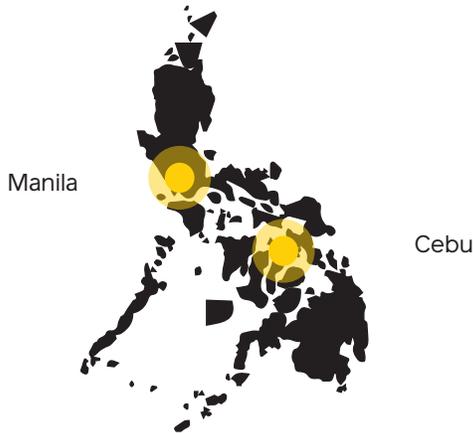


OSEC **destroys** families

AUGUST 2019

IJM PHILIPPINES



Field Office Locations

The problem:

ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC), particularly the use of a child to make sexually explicit photos, videos, or live shows on the internet in exchange for money, is a serious threat to children in the Philippines. Easy access to the web and money transfer services makes the country a global hotspot for this problem. About half of IJM’s cases of live-streamed OSEC have involved parents exploiting their own children, some as young as two months old. It’s a heartbreaking reality, and it’s difficult to imagine the desperate circumstances or self-deceiving construct that would enable a parent to hurt a child in this way. These children are robbed not only of their childhood, but also of their dignity and right to live in a trustworthy society.

Criminals who demand and those who supply are often mobile and can manipulate locations online, making them more difficult to catch. It will require a strong, coordinated strategy that centers around a strong justice system response to confront OSEC. Together, we believe that we can serve justice for those victimized by this crime.



Our goal:

TO PROTECT THE POOR FROM VIOLENCE THROUGH THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC JUSTICE SYSTEM

Everywhere we work, we start by coming alongside our partners in the local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors’ office, and aftercare providers:

Collaborative Casework

Assisting partners in rescue and restoration of victims, creating deterrence and accountability through arrest and prosecution, identifying gaps in the public justice system.

System Enhancement

Complementing collaborative casework with strategic support initiatives to build and enhance the capacity of our partners to combat this sort of abuse.

Sustaining Gains

Documenting the success of our justice system partners, reducing direct involvement in casework and moving to a consultative role, allowing our partners to continue the work.

“OSEC is destroying families - the very foundation of our society. We see this gruesome reality in the operations we are conducting with our police partners. It is heartbreaking to see children removed from places of exploitation and their parents being arrested because they were the ones committing this crime against their children. Let us end OSEC! It takes a strong, united, and closely coordinated strategy among law enforcement, both in country and abroad to end it.”

Atty. Samson Inocencio, Jr., National Director, IJM Philippines

77%
OF PERPETRATORS ARE PARENTS,
RELATIVES, CLOSE FRIENDS, OR
NEIGHBORS OF THE VICTIM.

All statistics are from IJM casework data from 2011 to August 26, 2019.

ROSIE'S STORY

At ten years old, Rosie* was rescued from her home in Cebu where her own mother was arrested for online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC). Her mother is now standing trial for allegedly receiving payments from foreigners who would direct live sexual abuse of little Rosie and her older sisters via webcam.

When police led the way into Rosie's home in 2016, a new chapter began. All three sisters were taken to a temporary crisis center, and their biggest concern was sticking together. After their mother was charged with crimes under the Philippines' cybercrime law and anti-trafficking law, the girls were transferred to a longer term government shelter.

"The dynamics of the abuse are far more complicated because of the 'trauma bond'," explains Rosie's IJM social worker. "Although Rosie hated what her mother was doing to her and her sisters, the nature of online sexual exploitation often leads to victims feeling guilty or responsible for breaking up their family. This abuse completely distorts the sanctity of family."

After a few months in the shelter, Rosie's personality started to shine brightly again. She loves spaghetti and ice cream cones. Her answers tumble out when asked what she likes to do for fun, "I like to run around the yard with my friends, I like to color, I like to make jewelry, and I like reading."

The girls have gotten to visit their father and little brothers at home, and Rosie was literally jumping with joy. She will stay at the shelter as the trial against her mother continues. Despite the betrayal and chaos that colored much of her young life, Rosie is resilient. The three words Rosie chooses to describe herself speak volumes: "Smart. Kind. Generous."



*A pseudonym

**TO REPORT SUSPICIONS OF
OSEC IN YOUR COMMUNITY,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**PNP Women and Children's
Protection Center (WCPC)**

For Smart subscribers, text
ENDOSEC [space] [Report
details] and send to 7444-ATIPD
(7444-28473) or call
Luzon: (02) 723-0401
Visayas: (032) 410-8483
Mindanao: (02) 310-4255
0966-325-7780

**NBI Anti-Human Trafficking
Division (AHTRAD)**

(02) 521-9208

**Inter-Agency Council Against
Human Trafficking (IACAT)**

Metro Manila: 1343
Outside Metro Manila: (02) 1343
www.1343actiononline.ph



Samson Inocencio, Jr.
National Director

Sam joined IJM Manila in 2003 as a lawyer. He became Legal Director and then Deputy Director for IJM Cebu, where he helped lead the team that worked with local law enforcement to dramatically reduce the number of children being trafficked in Metro Cebu. Sam returned to Manila to serve as Field Office Director in 2011, and in 2016 he was appointed as National Director for IJM 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 © 2019 International Justice Mission