



Southeast Asia

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION IS A GLOBAL ORGANIZATION THAT PROTECTS THE POOR FROM VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

The world has made encouraging strides in the fight against global poverty. But a hidden crisis silently threatens to undermine the world's best efforts to help the poor. Beneath the surface in the world's poorest communities, devastating violence like slavery and sex trafficking has become routine and reckless. This everyday violence is a reality for millions of the global poor. Like a horde of locusts devouring everything in their path, the unchecked plague of violence ruins lives, blocks the road out of poverty and undercuts development.



But when the laws are enforced, the violence can end.

In nearly 20 communities worldwide, IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems.

IJM's model has been proven to work: IJM studies and third-party researchers have documented dramatic change in the communities where we have partnered with public officials to target specific crimes. In the Philippines, the availability of children being sold for sex plummeted between 75% - 86% in the three major metro areas where we worked. In Cambodia, a final evaluation of our program to combat child sex trafficking found that "IJM's activities directly contributed to an increase in the number of raids on and closures of open brothels where commercial sexual exploitation of children was occurring."

IJM PROGRESS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA SINCE 2000:



1,650+
girls and young women rescued from sex trafficking and sexual violence



16,000+
stateless hill tribe people have been protected by claiming their legal right as Thai citizens



270+
violent traffickers, brothel owners, pimps, and abusers convicted under local laws



8,000+
police, government officials and community members trained by IJM in just three years



How IJM Combats Violence in Southeast Asia

We rescue victims of trafficking by partnering with national anti-trafficking law enforcement and local police to conduct rescue operations. In Cambodia, we combat labor trafficking within the country and across borders, and in the Philippines we are fighting the rising crime of cybersex trafficking. Our team in Thailand relentlessly advocates on behalf of stateless hill tribe people who are entitled to citizenship and are extremely vulnerable without it, and we represent children who have been sexually abused.

We bring criminals to justice. We work with local law enforcement to arrest and charge suspected criminals and to ensure that they are restrained from abusing other children. Our lawyers tirelessly pursue justice in court on behalf of survivors of trafficking and sexual violence. It's an uphill battle: many cases take two to four years, and some have taken twice that amount of time.

We restore survivors by creating care plans for each client. IJM social workers help place survivors in aftercare homes where they can return to school or take vocational classes, and we provide trauma-focused therapy. Our ultimate goal is restoration, and we continue to meet with survivors after they return home to their communities and facilitate group meetings to help survivors thrive in freedom.

We strengthen justice systems by focusing on system reform and making improvements in the justice system so that it protects millions of vulnerable people from exploitation. We provide hands-on mentoring and training for government officials combating human trafficking. We also create social demand and advocate with state and national leaders to make ending slavery a top priority.

“I testified against my perpetrators so I can help in giving justice to all who have been victimized and exploited.”

-Charito, rescued from sex trafficking*

IJM SOUTHEAST ASIA MILESTONES

2000

IJM opens offices in the Philippines and Thailand

2001

IJM's first-ever conviction

A man is convicted in Manila, Philippines for for raping a 13-year-old girl.

2003

IJM's first anti-trafficking operation in Cambodia rescues 37 children

2010

Landmark agreement

IJM becomes the first NGO in Cambodia invited to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Interior, which oversees all police.

2015

IJM study shows a safer Cambodia

After a decade in the country, IJM finds that only 0.75% of those prostituted in brothels were minors ages 15 and under.

2016

Blazing new trails to fight slavery

After studies showed 75% to 86% fewer minors being sold for sexual exploitation in the Philippines, IJM started combatting cybersex trafficking. In Cambodia, IJM started fighting labor trafficking.



ONE SURVIVOR'S STORY OF HOPE

When IJM first met Lilia*, she was living a nightmare. Every night, she was forced to line up with other girls, and customers paid to rape her. IJM worked with local police to stage an undercover operation to rescue Lilia and three other young women. Lilia decided to boldly testify against her traffickers in court, and her testimony helped secure justice in her case: Both traffickers were found guilty and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Lilia opened a “sari sari” shop with a friend and dreams of opening a restaurant one day.



IJM
PO Box 58147
Washington, DC 20037
T 703.465.5495
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.

All text and images © 2016 International Justice Mission