



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Trafficker gets life sentence for child sexual exploitation**

TAGUIG CITY, PHILIPPINES – A man was sentenced to life imprisonment for trafficking minors for child sexual abuse in exchange for money from online sex offenders.

On March 10, 2023, the Regional Trial Court Branch 15 in Taguig City found the trafficker (name withheld to protect the identity of his victim) guilty of qualified trafficking.

“The conviction is a win for everyone who worked hard on this case to ensure that the victim gets the justice he deserves. The fight against online sexual exploitation of children continues, and I hope that the harsh penalties will deter someone from committing a crime,” said Prosecutor Princess Roxanne Sucor.

The trafficker was sentenced to life in prison and ordered to pay a fine of P2 million, along with a total of P600,000 in damages to the complainant. On January 23, 2019, the Philippine National Police – Women and Children Protection Center (PNP – WCPC) arrested the trafficker and rescued a male minor victim in Taguig City.

The case stemmed from a referral from the German police who at that time were investigating a German national believed to have paid Filipino traffickers to transmit child sexual abuse materials over the internet.

Lawyer and IJM Manila Director Reynaldo said, “The Philippine government has declared a determined stance against online sexual exploitation of children. This heinous transnational crime is inexcusable and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Our team at IJM is fully committed to supporting the Philippine government and global law enforcement partners to ensure that justice is served, and our children are protected.”

Online sexual exploitation of children, including trafficking for the purpose of creating child sexual exploitation material, is a growing, borderless crime. In these crimes, sex offenders communicate online with traffickers (often family members or close relatives of victims), paying and directing them to livestream the sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

To date, IJM has supported Philippine authorities in the conviction of more than 180 people for offenses related to the online sexual exploitation of children. IJM has also supported more than 320 operations, resulting in the rescue of over 1,080 victims.

To report information about online child sexual exploitation, contact WCPC at 0966-725-5961 (Globe) and 0919-777-7377 (Smart). ###

#### **Note to Editors:**

- Under Philippine laws, the name and personal circumstances of the trafficked person or any other information tending to establish the identity of the trafficked person and his or her family shall not be disclosed to the public.
- The Terminology Guidelines for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, also known as the Luxembourg Guidelines, prescribes the use of the term “child sexual abuse material” or “child sexual exploitation material” instead of “child pornography”. Sexualized material that depicts or otherwise represents children is a representation, and a form, of child sexual abuse and should not be described as “pornography.”

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IJM's Program Against Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

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**About IJM**

International Justice Mission is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence. IJM partners with local authorities in 29 program offices in 17 countries to combat slavery, violence against women and children, and police abuse of power against people who are poor. IJM works with local authorities and governments to rescue and restore survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and help strengthen public justice systems so they can better protect people from violence.

Our 21 years of work in the Philippines led to a dramatic decrease in the prevalence of sex trafficking of children in bars and brothels—reductions ranging from 72%-86% in the cities where we partnered with local authorities. In 2016, IJM fully transitioned our program in the Philippines to combat online sexual exploitation of children, in particular the trafficking of children to create new child sexual abuse materials, including via livestreaming.

Learn more: [osec.IJM.org](http://osec.IJM.org).