

## Group 5 Child Soliciting and Abuse

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### The Philippines Cybersex Trafficking

- What is the event about and when did it happen?
  - The case talks about the rescue of young children from cybersex trafficking in the Philippines. The operation was carried out in August 20 2015. This rescue was part of a broader effort to combat the exploitation of children through online platforms, with international and local agencies working together to identify and remove children from abusive situations.
- Where the attack was first discovered, how far did it spread and when it was finally contained?
  - The specific incident detailed in the articles was first discovered in the Philippines, where the cybersex trafficking was occurring. The operation to rescue the children was part of a larger international effort to address and combat this issue. Moreover, the spread of cybersex trafficking can be extensive, as it often involves online networks that can reach across borders. While the article does not provide precise details on how far the trafficking network extended or when it was fully contained, such operations typically involve ongoing investigations and international cooperation to dismantle these networks and protect victims.

Also, the containment of such trafficking operations is often a continuous process, involving law enforcement actions, victim support, and efforts to disrupt the traffickers' activities across various regions. The operation was a joint effort involving international and local authorities, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Philippine National Police. The rescued children were found in disturbing conditions and have been placed in protective custody. This case highlights the severe and growing problem of cybersex trafficking, where perpetrators exploit children through online platforms.

- Is the threat ongoing?
  - Yes, the threat of cybersex trafficking remains a significant concern. Despite efforts by authorities and organizations to combat this issue, the rapid growth of digital technology and the internet can make it challenging to fully eradicate. Traffickers often exploit new technologies and online platforms to evade detection and continue their illegal activities. Ongoing vigilance, international

cooperation, and robust law enforcement efforts are crucial to addressing and mitigating this threat.

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- What type of attacker(s) was/were involved, and how they perform the attack?
  - The attackers involved in this case were adults who exploited children through cybersex trafficking. They typically set up online platforms where they offered paid live-streaming sexual acts involving minors to clients, often from different parts of the world. The attackers often lured vulnerable children and coerced them into participating in these activities, taking advantage of dire socio-economic conditions.
- Where the predators caught?
  - Yes, in connection with the August 2015 operation in Cebu, law enforcement agencies, with the assistance of IJM, conducted a raid that led to the arrest of predators involved in cybersex trafficking ring. The operation aimed to rescue the minors involved and bring the offenders to justice.
- Who, or what entities were affected by the attacks?
  - Victims, primarily woman and children, often from vulnerable backgrounds, are coerced into performing sexual acts on live streams. These victims suffer severe physical, emotional, and psychological trauma. Families, the families of the victims are deeply impacted, experiencing emotional distress and sometimes social stigma. In some cases, family members are involved in the trafficking. Society, the broader community is affected as cybersex trafficking contributes to perpetuation of crime and exploitation. It undermines social values and can lead to increased crime rates.
  - Law enforcement, authorities face significant challenges in combating cybersex trafficking due to its global nature and the use of advanced technology by traffickers. This requires extensive resources and international cooperation.
- How much damage did it causes?
  - The attack was estimated to have affected more than 300,000 computers across 150 countries, with total damages ranging from hundreds of millions to billions of dollars.
- How did the necessary authorities react to the attack?
  - Authorities in the Philippines responded decisively to the cybersex trafficking cases by rescuing six children, arresting four suspects involved in exploitation, and collaborating with international agencies to dismantle the trafficking networks, while also ensuring the victims received crisis care and support during their recovery process.
- What countermeasures were used stop/prevent the attack?
  - International cooperation, the collaboration between national police, the international justice mission, and Nordic law enforcement agencies demonstrates the importance national cooperation in addressing this global issue.

- Tip-offs and intelligence, this rescue operation was triggered by a tip from the Nordic liaison office, highlighting the value of information sharing and intelligence gathering.
  - Law enforcement raids, the authorities conducted a raid on the home where the victims were being held, demonstrating the effectiveness of law enforcement operations in disrupting trafficking networks.
  - Rescue and rehabilitation, the rescued children were placed in the care of social workers and provided with necessary support services, including trauma therapy and aftercare, to help them recover from their ordeal.
- What are the other local or international crimes related to the crime discussed?
    - There's a form of slavery that's alive and well in Canada: human trafficking for sexual exploitation. And it's at a crisis level in this country.

For the perpetrators and pimps, trafficking is a lucrative business. But for the victims, it's a living hell of trauma and abuse with deep repercussions — including for those who manage to escape.
  - In your opinion, what could be done to improve the situation and prevent similar attacks from happening in the future? Feel free to express your opinions or hypotheses based on what knowledge you have in case the answers to some questions aren't found in your references.
    - In our opinion, we can apply a fund organization that supports the cause to protect and prevent cybersex trafficking, also the authorities can support to stop this issue from continuing. To improve the situation and prevent future cybersex child soliciting attacks, a multi-faceted approach is needed. This includes enhancing online safety education for children, parents, and educators, collaborating with tech companies to implement stricter age verification measures, and involving law enforcement agencies in monitoring and addressing cybersex child soliciting activities.

## REFERENCES

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