



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Documentary Spotlighting Global Crisis of Online Child Sexual Abuse to Air on ARTE TV, Supported by International Justice Mission (IJM)**

MANILA, PHILIPPINES – A groundbreaking documentary about the global crisis of online child sexual abuse has been released by the French-German broadcaster ARTE TV.

Produced by Memento Productions and directed by filmmaker Laetitia Ohnona, “*Pédocriminels, la traque (Paedocriminals, The Hunt)*” shines a light on corners of the internet where sex offenders operate with impunity and children suffer horrific abuse. Spanning eight countries, Ms. Ohnona’s investigation takes her to the heart of police forces combating online child sexual abuse and exploitation daily.

“With President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s recent urgent call for a stronger response against online child sexual abuse and exploitation, this documentary comes at a timely moment for the Philippines,” said IJM Philippines National Director Samson Inocencio Jr. “But this isn’t just a problem for Filipinos to deal with; it’s a problem that other countries, especially those driving demand, as well as tech and financial platforms where these crimes thrive, should urgently address.”

As of this writing, an international version of the documentary is still in development, but it is currently available for streaming in France and Germany (see [French](#) and [German](#) versions). The documentary aired in France and Germany on May 21 on ARTE’s broadcast channel.

In collaboration with IJM Philippines and IJM Germany, Ms. Ohnona interviewed experts in the Philippines, including survivor advocate Cassie (real name withheld); IJM’s OSEC Program Vice President and IJM Philippines National Director Samson Inocencio Jr.; Philippine National Police - Women and Children Protection Center Chief Portia Manalad; and Shechem Center Head Analyn Ablao. IJM’s Center to End OSEC Executive Director John Tanagho was also interviewed while in Germany advocating for a stronger response to demand-side offenders who pay for and direct child sexual abuse of Filipino children.

In September last year, IJM and the University of Nottingham’s Rights Lab released the [Scale of Harm](#) study report, which revealed a significant national prevalence of trafficking of children to produce new child sexual exploitation material (CSEM) in the Philippines. In 2022, nearly half a million Filipino children, or 1 in 100 Filipino children, were sexually abused by traffickers to create new CSEM, including livestreamed abuse, for sale to offenders around the world.

“These offenders—primarily located in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and European countries—are not passive ‘consumers’. In fact, they actively direct specific acts of sexual violence and abuse against very young children in live video streams, while tech companies fail to address these live crime scenes happening through their services,” said John Tanagho, Executive Director, IJM’s Center to End OSEC.

The *Scale of Harm* study recommended that online safety regulators, such as eSafety and Ofcom, pass and enforce strong *safety by design* requirements for companies to meaningfully address live video streams of child abuse and other CSEM production on their platforms and through their devices.

“German and other Western perpetrators drive the demand for the online sexual exploitation of children. This is a heinous crime happening in our backyard. IJM is committed to spearheading and bolstering efforts to advocate for and support impactful change worldwide, including pushing for legislation that holds tech companies accountable. Additionally, we need to prioritize building capacity within national and international law enforcement,” said Dietmar Roller, CEO of IJM Germany.

In 2023, Germany ranked third in the EU and sixth globally for hosting known child sexual abuse material, according to the [Internet Watch Foundation](#) (IWF). Additionally, a report by the Philippines' [Anti-Money Laundering Council](#) ranked Germany sixth among countries sending money linked to online sexual exploitation of children to the Philippines. ###

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

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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#### **About IJM**

International Justice Mission is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence. IJM partners with local authorities in 31 communities in 16 countries to rescue and restore survivors, hold perpetrators accountable, and help strengthen public justice systems so they can better protect people from violence.

Our 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: [IJM.org.ph](http://IJM.org.ph)