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## **Woman Sentenced to Life Imprisonment for Livestreaming Child Sexual Abuse**

TAGUIG CITY, PHILIPPINES – A Taguig City court sentenced a woman to life imprisonment and ordered her to pay P4 million in fines for sexually abusing minors in exchange for money from online sex offenders.

On November 17, 2025, Taguig City Regional Trial Court Branch 163 convicted the woman (identity withheld due to her familial ties to the victims) of qualified trafficking in persons and possession of child sexual abuse material.

“We are delighted to secure another conviction in the fight against human trafficking. This was one of the more challenging cases we have handled, as it was operated during the height of the pandemic,” said Senior Assistant City Prosecutor David Michael Go, who handled the case.

On April 22, 2020, the Philippine National Police’s Women and Children Protection Center – Anti-Trafficking in Person Division (PNP WCPC-ATIPD) arrested the trafficker in Taguig City and rescued seven minors, following a tip-off from United States Homeland Security Investigations (US-HSI).

Online sexual exploitation or abuse of children (OSAEC), specifically the trafficking of children for livestreamed child sexual abuse, is a widespread crime in the Philippines. According to IJM’s [\*Scale of Harm\*](#) prevalence study, nearly 500,000 Filipino children were victims of this crime in 2022 alone. Perpetrators often refer to the abuse as a “show” they stage in exchange for money from online sex offenders abroad.

IJM Philippines’ Community Engagement Director Evelyn Pingul emphasized: “This is not just a ‘show’ or ‘online content’—it’s real abuse with lifelong consequences. Each of us has a moral and civic responsibility to speak up and act when we see it happening in our communities.”

In the recent conviction, the woman operated under multiple social media usernames, online accounts, and contact numbers to conceal her illegal activities. “This crime thrives in the shadows—often within homes—which is why community vigilance is key to stopping it,” said Pingul.

According to IJM data, over 270 individuals have been convicted of involvement in OSAEC, and more than 1,600 victims and at-risk children have been rescued since 2011.

Multiple laws in the Philippines penalize crimes related to OSAEC, including:

- **Republic Act No. 11930**, or the *Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act*

- **Republic Act No. 7610**, or the *Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act*
- **Republic Act No. 9208**, as amended by **R.A. 10364** and **R.A. 11862**, collectively known as *Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act*.

In the Taguig City conviction, the woman was sentenced to reclusion perpetua (up to 40 years) for possession of child sexual abuse material and life imprisonment for qualified trafficking. She was also ordered to pay P4 million in fines and P300,000 in damages.

The conviction was secured without requiring any child victim to testify, as the prosecution made full use of digital evidence—sparing survivors from the trauma of reliving their abuse in court and facing their perpetrator.

“This conviction is a testament that child-protective strategies work, as we were able to secure a conviction without having the child to testify. Ultimately, this case is a clear reminder that the fight against human trafficking never ends and requires efforts from all stakeholders involved. I am grateful to the PNP WCPC and the IJM for their work in this case,” Go said.

IJM works closely with authorities to ensure offenders are held accountable and survivors receive protection and support. To strengthen the justice system’s response to OSAEC and trafficking, IJM also provides specialized training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and social workers.

On September 16, 2024, IJM, in partnership with the Department of Justice - Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (DOJ-IACAT) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), hosted the national summit “*Iisang Nasyon, Iisang Aksyon: Tapusin ang OSAEC Ngayon.*” The event marked the launch of the “*Bayang Walang Bahid ng OSAEC*” campaign designed to break the culture of silence and empower communities to report child exploitation.

To report suspected online child sexual exploitation, contact the Philippine National Police – Women and Children Protection Center at 0966-725-5961 (Globe) and 0919-777-7377 (Smart). ###

#### Notes 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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## **About IJM**

International Justice Mission is a global organization that protects people in poverty from violence. IJM partners with local authorities in 33 communities in 18 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: <https://www.ijm.org.ph>