



KENYA

THE PROBLEM

POLICE ABUSE OF POWER SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

In Kenya, it's easy for a corrupt or incompetent police officer to falsely accuse and imprison, or even kill an innocent person who can't afford to pay a bribe.

Without a lawyer, the innocent person will often wait years for freedom, and the abusive police officer can expect to get away with the crime.

There's another problem—when law enforcement does not arrest the real perpetrators, violent criminals are not brought to justice. As a result, sexual predators assault children without fear of consequences. Child survivors are silenced by shame, and their families don't expect the system to provide meaningful justice.



THE FACTS



In 64% of felony cases reviewed in one Kenyan study, **people had been put on trial without sufficient evidence** to charge them in the first place.¹

1 in 3 people reported experiencing police abuse, including assault, bribery, falsification of evidence and threat of imprisonment in the same study.²

Globally, an estimated **1 in 5 women** will be a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.³

IJM KENYA PROGRESS SINCE 2001



250+

innocent men and women released from prison since 2004



86+

criminals convicted for sexually assaulting children since 2002



210+

survivors and family participating in the IJM aftercare program

¹Kenya Independent Policing Oversight Authority, ²ibid., ³UN



“I realized that no matter how little you are, no matter how poor you are, there are people in the world who care to fight for the rights of the marginalized.”

—David, one of IJM Kenya’s first police abuse of power clients, on how he felt when IJM came to defend him against false charges. He has since become a lawyer and defender of the poor and oppressed.

How IJM Kenya Combats Police Abuse and Violence

We rescue victims of sexual violence by partnering with Kenyan authorities, hospitals and community members to remove children from danger and address their immediate needs. We identify victims falsely accused of crimes and provide legal representation to exonerate them for crimes they did not commit.

We bring criminals to justice by helping law enforcement and prosecutors to adequately investigate cases of sexual violence and present strong evidence in court. We collaborate with the Kenyan Office of the Director of Public Prosecution and the Independent Policing Oversight Authority to bring criminal charges against abusive police who use their power to harm others.

We restore survivors by providing trauma-focused therapy for children who endured sexual violence, helping them share the truth in court if they choose to testify, and ensuring that their families have the strong foundation they need to thrive. For innocent prisoners and their families, we provide ongoing support during and after the trial.

We strengthen justice systems by partnering with government agencies to train police and prosecutors on how to investigate cases and properly charge criminals. We also train hospital staff and others on trauma therapy, help churches and communities promote child rights, and support survivors of police abuse as they reintegrate into their communities.

IJM KENYA MILESTONES

2001

IJM KENYA OPENS

2012

PRISON INVESTIGATION

IJM and its partners survey prisoners in Nairobi’s Industrial Remand Prison and determine 20-40% may be innocent.

2016

FIRST CONVICTION OF A POLICE OFFICER

The officer was found guilty of manslaughter for abuse that led to the death of a man in custody.

2016

MURDER OF A STAFF MEMBER AND CLIENT

Willie, an IJM investigator, was murdered along with the client he was defending, Josephat, and their driver, Joseph, because they dared to stand up to abusive police. The murders ignited protests and calls for police reform from Kenyan society.



FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR GREG TARRANT

Greg joined IJM in 2011, most recently leading the Bolivia team. Greg received his B.S. in International Business from John Brown University and a M.B.A. from Thunderbird American School of International Management. Since 2017, Greg has led IJM Kenya to fight police abuse of power and protect child victims of sexual violence, empowering survivors and their families to thrive.



LEARN MORE: IJM.ORG

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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.

*A pseudonym. All text and images © 2017 International Justice Mission