



KENYA

THE PROBLEM POLICE ABUSE OF POWER; SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

In Kenya, prisons are overcrowded yet full of many innocent people. Powerful criminals and corrupt authorities alike know they can prey on the poor with near impunity. It's easy for a corrupt or incompetent police officer to frame and imprison an innocent person who can't afford to pay a bribe. And without a lawyer, the innocent person will often wait years for freedom. 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



195+

innocent men and women released from prison since 2004



65+

criminals convicted for sexually assaulting children since 2002



240+

participating in the IJM aftercare program

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



“To all those that have prayed for me: Thank you...Those prayers have reached God.”

–Joseph, who spent 16 months in a Nairobi prison, was charged with a violent crime he had not committed

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 concludes.

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, and we help churches and communities promote child rights.

IJM KENYA MILESTONES

2001

IJM KENYA OPENS

2011

78-YEAR-OLD MAN SET FREE

A Kenyan court sets a precedent for releasing a convicted man on bail; Michael is acquitted two years later for the wrongful charges.

2012

PRISON INVESTIGATION

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

2014

NEW SCREENING PROGRAM

The Director of Public Prosecutions begins a new program, developed with IJM's help, to screen cases and ensure prosecutors have enough evidence to bring charges.



FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR CLAIRE WILKINSON

Claire joined IJM Zambia in 2013, leading the team to defend widows and orphans. She previously worked in Rwanda, where she developed programs to protect children and served with a network of lawyers. She was an attorney for 11 years with the Scottish Prosecution Service. Claire leads IJM's team of Kenyan social workers, lawyers and investigators to defend children and empower their families to thrive.



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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.

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