



IJM

Liana, Dominican Republic
Free from slavery because of you!

ChristChurch London

Field Office Partner Report: IJM Dominican Republic

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION, *April 2017*

Thank you for partnering with IJM Dominican Republic in 2016!

In the Dominican Republic and around the globe, millions of girls and young women are deceived, trafficked and exploited in the dangerous commercial sex industry—but your ongoing partnership has equipped IJM’s team of experts to seek justice, partner with local authorities and rescue victims when they need us most. Together, we can help survivors find healing and hope, and bring dramatic change to how the poor are protected from traffickers long-term.

Your generous support made justice possible in the Dominican Republic this year:

GOALS	RESULTS
Rescue 32 victims of sex trafficking, alongside our trained police partners	28 rescued
Collaborate with local law enforcement to restrain 12 traffickers and pimps	16 restrained
See 18 survivors restored to health and wholeness through our comprehensive aftercare program and vital partners	15 restored
Train police, prosecutors, judges, social workers, partner organizations and community members to recognize and respond to slavery	746 trained

Highlights from Our Year

Justice in Record Time: By God’s grace, we celebrated convictions in two key cases. In one case, IJM won the conviction of a bar owner and a bar manager for commercial sexual exploitation, working with the Public Ministry to move the case from rescue to conviction in only 10 months—despite a politically well-connected defendant. In another case, the team won the conviction of a survivor’s mother for selling her own daughter to men for sex. The court sentenced the woman to 15 years in prison, the second strongest sentence obtained yet by IJM’s team in the Dominican Republic.



First Dominican Client Reaches Restoration: In the third quarter, IJM celebrated its first aftercare participant in the Dominican Republic to reach restoration. Fourteen additional participants subsequently reached this goal. These graduates have significantly healed from their trauma and returned to mental, emotional and physical health. The aftercare team has been working with many of these survivors since 2014, demonstrating time required to walk with survivors to restoration. God is at work in the Dominican Republic! He is healing these girls on every level. The office hopes the length of time will shorten as IJM continues to increase the capacity of local social services.

Arresting Traffickers—and Customers: IJM’s team worked with local authorities to arrest five suspected sex traffickers in the first half of 2016. These included a man who allegedly exploited minors at his bar, as well

as two suspected customers—one of the first times we’ve seen Dominican prosecutors seek charges against alleged customers.

Your support helped rescue 15 young women from an international sex trafficking ring

SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – On December 1, 2016, IJM helped Dominican authorities rescued 15 Colombian young women from a prominent nightclub in the capital city.

The operation was the culmination of a two-year investigation to expose an international sex trafficking ring. The Dominican Public Ministry’s Anti-Trafficking Unit had uncovered a criminal network that was trafficking young women across national borders, bringing them to Santo Domingo for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.



In the December operation, police arrested the club owner, two Dominican associates and other suspects located in Medellin, Colombia. The club owner is well-known in the community and viewed as a powerful figure. The anti-trafficking unit coordinated with multiple government agencies—in both the DR and Colombia—to plan the complex, high-profile operation across four different locations. IJM was called upon to provide direct support to the young women rescued, and to argue alongside the prosecutor to ensure the bar owner did not receive bail.

On the night of the operation, IJM’s aftercare team was there to clearly explain to the young women that they were not being arrested or in trouble—they were being rescued. The survivors were taken to a safe shelter where they received aftercare kits with blankets, a change of clothes and toiletries while they waited to answer questions about how they were brought into the country. Most of the women have now safely returned home to Colombia.

The bar owner is being prosecuted for crimes including human trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, money laundering and illegal possession of firearms. The courtroom where his bail trial took place was packed, with swarms of media waiting outside. Six private attorneys accompanied the owner. After two hours of arguments, the court ruled that bail would be denied and he would remain in custody as the prosecution moves forward. The two other Dominican suspects were granted bail. IJM will work tirelessly alongside local justice officials to hold these perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

Thank you being part of the global justice movement. By standing with IJM, we are together, rescuing our brothers and sisters who otherwise had no one to protect them. We are committed to God’s call to bring freedom. Thank you for partnering with our office in the DR. We are so grateful for your prayers and generous support.