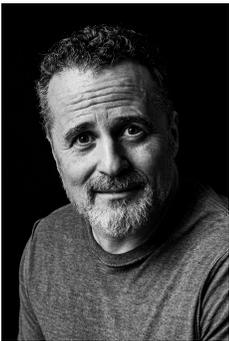




Figure 1 - Map of Indonesia

Indonesia you don't want to see: Final thoughts.



By: **Daniel Jean**, photojournalist
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An overview of the problem

On paper, Indonesia seems to be a model of virtue in the fight against human trafficking and sex trafficking.

In reality, far from improving, the situation is deteriorating and little is done in practice to help women and children who are victims of human trafficking (3).

Several factors explain the increase in the problem. Indonesian police say increasing access to social media now allows traffickers to sell prostitutes' services directly to clients who will order their victims like we order a pizza.

The US Embassy in Indonesia reports the same inaction from the Indonesian government. According to the embassy, Indonesia is very far from doing everything it can to finally stem the problem.

Among the factors explaining the failure to combat human trafficking, the embassy cited the rampant level of corruption by officials preventing the conviction of traffickers, among other things.

Furthermore, the law adopted in 2007 is completely ineffective since it requires the complainant to prove that there was either use of force, fraud or coercion.

A child, especially in Asia, will never be able to do the requested demonstration. The culture of child submission to adults, among other things, makes this law ineffective.

As proof, there was only one conviction for a trafficker in 2017. In addition, the Child Protection Commission identified only 293 cases of children sold to traffickers.

There are 90,000 underage prostitutes in Indonesia.

According to the **International Organization for Migration** (1), the following factors stand in the way of effectively combating trafficking in persons, whether for forced labor or sex trafficking:

- Corrupt law enforcement officials
- Decentralized government
- Family and community influence
- Passport retention
- Ineffective management of information between different government bodies
- Victims' distrust of the authorities
- Victim stigma

Possible solutions (2)

First of all, we must put an end to the culture of complacency with government officials who look away, who facilitate or who engage in human, sexual or domestic trafficking.

Those who are guilty of such acts must be prosecuted as severely as the law allows.

The 2007 law must be amended so that the burden of proof is not placed on the victim. In the case of abuse, particularly with children, it should be up to the accused to prove that he is not guilty.

Interagency government cooperation needs to be improved. It is no small task considering that Indonesia is an archipelago of 17,600 islands and that internet is not at its best.

Finally, prostitutes, both minors and adults, must be considered as victims and helped in every way possible.

This paradigm shift necessarily means criminalizing the purchase of sexual services(that means prosecuting clients) and bringing to justice all those who, directly or indirectly, benefit from the sexual trafficking of girls and women.

1- <https://www.iom.int/fr>

2- <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

3- <http://theconversation.com/indonesia-is-paying-lip-service-to-stopping-human-trafficking-its-time-to-do-more-66914>