

Juli and Monika*'s Rescue*

These two sisters were just five and seven years old when they were rescued from sexual abuse.

In June 2017, IJM supported the Dominican authorities to arrest a woman believed to be exploiting her two young daughters to produce child pornography.

The Dominican Public Ministry's Anti-Trafficking Unit were informed through an anonymous complaint and quickly worked to build a case against the suspect.

Once video evidence was found of the two girls being forced against their will, our team was contacted to support the arrest of the suspect and to rescue the children out of the abusive situation.

The team travelled to an impoverished and crime-ridden neighbourhood in Santo Domingo, the country's capital. Whilst the authorities arrested the suspect and took her into custody, our aftercare team provided immediate care for the two girls, Juli and Monika, aged just five and seven.

Our social workers accompanied the two girls through questioning immediately after the operation, and helped them settle into the protective care of a shelter. Our team will continue to work with Juli and Monika, to help them heal and grow after the devastating exploitation they have experienced.

These girls are just beginning their journey towards healing and wholeness, and IJM's team is committed to walking alongside them, no matter how long it takes.

Our lawyers argued alongside the prosecutor at the bail hearing. The court denied bail, and the suspect will remain in prison awaiting trial.

***Pseudonyms**