

**Independence
Professionalism
Confidentiality
Collaboration**



Action Pour Les Enfants

April - June 2012 Newsletter

Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE)

Action Pour Les Enfants (APLE) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that was registered in France in 1994, with no religious and political affiliations. APLE has extensive experiences in managing projects that provide assistance and protection to the vulnerable in South and South-East Asia.

In 2003, APLE and Spanish NGO [Global Humanitaria](#) partnered to launch **the “PROTECT” project** in Cambodia, which has since then grown from operations in Phnom Penh alone to a countrywide scale. Global Humanitaria continues to provide support, which enables APLE to ensure its ground-breaking work. This support includes development and management of the project, technical and financial resources. APLE implements all activities necessary to fulfill the achievement of its vision and mission statement.

Please report abuse!

If you observe any suspicion of sexual abuse, please call our 24 hrs helpline:

092 311 511 or email us: reportabuse@aplecambodia.org

We assure you of strictest confidentiality!

Cover image

Awareness activity at school run by Pour Un Sourire d'Enfants, Trea Village, Stung Meanchey District, Phnom Penh, June 19, 2012.

Vision

A community where everyone is free from abuse and exploitation.

Mission

To reduce all forms of sexual abuse and labor exploitation through prevention, protection, promotion of prosecution and advocacy.

Goals

To prevent sexual abuse and labor exploitation through awareness, education, capacity building and dissemination.

To protect victims from sexual abuse and labor exploitation through provision of social, psychological and rehabilitative support, and legal assistance.

To promote prosecution of all offenders and perpetrators by collaborating with law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute any person who commits sexual abuse and labor exploitation against children and adults to legal accountability.

APLE has been operating under **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Royal Government of Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, and Ministry of Interior.**

About our work

APLE conducts reactive and proactive investigations into suspected incidents of child sexual abuse, child pornography, child prostitution, international pedophilia, child sex tourism, rape and human trafficking for sexual or labor exploitation in close collaboration with the Cambodian National Police and International Law Enforcement Agencies.

Our dedicated staff consists of seriously working people whose first interest is to prevent abuse. Investigations of suspicious sexual abuse behaviors often take months or years before enough hard evidence is collected to present to police or courts. This is for various reasons: traveling child sex offenders often stay in one place for a limited time and tend to go into and out of a country regularly; child sex offenders are mostly aware of the fact that they are involved in illegal activities and are very cautious; victims and their

families are often not cooperative or fearful to disclose abuse, because they receive substantial financial support from perpetrators or feel guilty to denounce someone they've trusted.

Further, cultural beliefs, lack of knowledge and understanding, but also ignorance and sometimes corruption create a discrepancy between the number of arrests and the actual amount of convictions and sometimes disappointing sentences.

APLE is NOT a law enforcement agency; we are merely helping police to detect the crime, identify victims, investigate the crime scene, and ensure that collecting evidence in case of signs of abuse is done in compliance with national and international laws and standards. It is up to police to put parts of the puzzle together and to make a decision of what legal proceedings to undertake.

Our dedication to and support of victims (and their families) does not stop with an arrest or a conviction. Our social and legal teams often continue supporting them many months or years after abuse has taken place to guarantee successful rehabilitation.

APLE wants you to have this in mind while reading this newsletter or our website.

For comments, ideas, suggestions, criticism or questions about this newsletter or other issues, please mailto: info@aplecambodia.org



APLE staff testing their team spirit with a game during their annual retreat, Phnom Sampov, Battambang, July 1, 2012

Investigations April - June

In the second quarter of 2012 APLE investigated **48** cases in Phnom Penh, **36** cases in Sihanoukville and **5** cases in Siem Reap, which led to the arrests of **1** Japanese expat (charged with sexual intercourse with a female minor under the age of 15), **4** Cambodians (2 charged with rape, 2 with human trafficking), **1** French national (charged with purchase of child prostitution) and the re-arrest of **1** Russian who was expelled to South Korea on June 21, and was re-arrested on arrival in Moscow, June 22, for the rape of two year old girls and one 11 year old girl.

At the end of January 2012, APLE was informed by a reliable source that a western man had lured a few shoe shining boys and can collectors to his rented house near Phsar Kandal, Phnom Penh. According to the informant, 8 boys, between 13 and 16, were involved and after further investigation three of them revealed to have been sexually molested. Only when the boys pointed out the house, investigators realized that they were familiar with the suspect, who they had been investigating on a regular

Don't turn your back on child molestation, tuktuk campaign.



basis since 2004. Previously the suspect had been summoned for questioning 3 times in France, and was arrested twice in Thailand and twice in Cambodia on suspicion of child sex abuse.

The youngest victim, 13, dropped out of school after his father died to support his mom and 6 siblings.

The first time the boy encountered the suspect, he received some cans and money. The second time the suspect asked him to come up into his apartment and gave him \$1. The third time he undressed and showered him, and finally raped him. This happened once more at a later date. On both occasions the victim received \$10.

Two families of the three victims have filed a complaint so far. **As a result, the suspect was arrested and charged with purchasing child prostitution (art. 34) and an indecent act against a minor (art. 43).** He will remain in custody awaiting further proceedings.

APPLE participated in an operation with the police rescuing 18 Victims of Human Trafficking at Keo Phos Village, Stung Hav District, Preah Sihanouk Province, 31 May 2012

The parents of six boys, aged 6-14, from the same village in Siem Reap province sent them out every day after school to collect firewood to make extra money. A British tourist, 58, joined them over a longer period of several months, played with them in the forest and showed them pornographic movies on his phone.

In an interview with the boys, APPLE investigators learned that the man had shown them his penis and also had sexually molested the boys on two occasions. APPLE informed the Juvenile Protection police, who arrested the suspect on March 6 and charged him with indecent acts against four minors under the age of 15 (art. 43). But he was then released by the investigating judge on bail. Currently APPLE continues monitoring the suspect.





Community work in Russei Village,
Stung Meanchey District,
Phnom Penh, June 19, 2012.

Social Support for Victims and their Families April - June

APLE social workers have been taking care of 25 victims (21F) in Phnom Penh, 30 victims (11F) in Sihanoukville and 28 victims (11F) in Siem Reap.

For this period we have decided to put the victims of **Russian serial sex offender Stanislav Molodyakov** central, because of the amount of victims and the severity of the impact on his victims. Many have been suffering from trauma and depression, felt hopeless and had continuously bad dreams; they felt guilty of the abuse and, on top of that, as a result of the believe in Cambodian culture that once a woman has **lost her virginity**, she is viewed as **“used goods”** and is of no value, some of the victims thus felt dirty. Two victims were extremely afraid when seeing foreign men; and two others became very short-tempered and had an extreme negative outlook on life in general and the future.

The following story is based on an interview in Khmer with one of Molodyakov's aka Trofimov's victims, aged 16 at the time of the interview at her home in February 2011. This is a translated summary of her review of events and she titled it 'My New Life':

Social worker counsels victim of abuse in Mittapheap Commune, Russey Keo District, Phnom Penh, June 19, 2012.



“My friends and I have grown up in poor families; most of us migrated from the countryside to Sihanouk Ville. To survive, we collected empty plastic bottles and beer cans everyday on the beaches. Our families paid no attention to us, they neither sent us to school nor did they take good care of us. In 2005, APLE Social Worker met me and my friends by chance on the beach. She talked to us about our lives and tried to solve any problems we encountered; she also visited our families to study the situation and she provided a lot of ideas about setting up small businesses to improve our families' living standards. She also contacted various charity organizations to provide basic support to our families.

As time passed by, we became very close to her and we told her good as well as bad stories of our lives. We started to call her “teacher.” Our teacher also taught us about impacts

of child sex abuse and how to prevent ourselves from it; but it came too late. We liked her so much that we eventually told her about the most depressing stories in our lives.

In a private place, where nobody could hear us, we told her about how the richest and most powerful foreigner in Sihanouk Ville had trapped us with his money and had sexually abused us on several occasions. We also informed her that some of our friends' mothers had sold their daughters to him for money in exchange for sex. After hearing this, our teacher cried and promised to seek justice and change our lives.

I felt relieved and told my parents but as a consequence my father beat me up severely because he had warned me to stay away from foreigners prior to the abuse. My teacher spoke to my father and explained him that it was not mine



Awareness campaign at Pour un Sourire d'Enfants (PSE) in Trea Village, Stung Meanchey District, Phnom Penh, June 19, 2012.

but the foreigner's fault. After listening to her explanation my father felt very miserable and promised not to blame or beat me again. My father wanted to file a complaint against the foreigner but was too scared of his wealth and power. Only after our teacher encouraged him, he agreed.

In October 2007 the foreigner was arrested. To assure our safety, our teacher arranged accommodation and rehabilitation at different shelters; and others, like me, were moved back to our home provinces. Our teacher visited all of us regularly which made us feel safe. She also accompanied us at the courts and helped us testifying, which led to a successful conviction of the foreigner. My life has changed, I am a family oriented sister who could educate my 2 younger brothers and my friends about child sex abuse and self-prevention; I enjoy living with my parents and I am hopeful and happy."

Legal Department April - June

The total number of cases APLE lawyers represented at all levels of Court was **79** concerning **91** offenders (7 female) and they were working in and out of court with **48** victims (23 female). There were **7** successful convictions at Phnom Penh Municipal Court and another **3** at the Appeal Court. In separate cases **7** Cambodians -, **1** Australian -, **1** American – and **1** Vietnamese national were charged with instigating (art. 28, penal code), illegal confinement (art. 253, penal code), sexual intercourse with minors under 15 (art. 42, anti-human trafficking law), purchase of child prostitution (art. 34, AHTL) and their sentences varied from 1 year and 8 months up to 5 years imprisonment. Additionally some suspects were ordered to pay compensation from 1,5 million up to 10 million Riel.

In Banteay Meanchey province APLE lawyers are confronted with a very ugly case. 6 Year old **Chheam Channary** (name changed) lives in a tiny rented

cottage. Her father is working from early morning until late evening as a carter at the border; her mom is an alcoholic who doesn't take care of her 7 children.

In January 2012, an Australian-Korean tourist rented a house close to Channary's hut. He quickly became friends with many of the children in the village by luring them with cookies, candies and coca cola.

On February 8, some 10 children were standing in front of his window when he was watching a movie. When the offender saw Channary he dragged her into the house, he removed his pants, put her onto his lap and then took Channary's clothes off. He immediately started penetrating her. Mr. S. R., a shocked neighbor witnessed this act and reported it to the village chief and asked police to intervene. The suspect who had been previously monitored by APLE was subsequently arrested. APLE's social worker immediately counseled Channary, helped her testify at

police station, and had her and another allegedly victimized girl examined at the provincial referral hospital. After the mother and an aunt asked APLE to represent Channary legal documents were filed at the court on February 13.

Since then the lawyers have regularly tried to follow-up with the judge and the clerk, but were never informed about procedures. APLE later learned that the civil plaintiffs have taken extra-judicial compensation; Channary's mother received \$ 2,000 for withdrawing the complaint, while the aunt of the other victim received \$300 as well.

Currently APLE lawyers are working on intervention letters to the minister of justice and president of the court and advocate with the court clerk and judge to invite witness Mr. S. R. to testify at court. **The foreigner remains living in close vicinity to Channary's and other vulnerable children's homes.**



APLE lawyers, legal assistant and social worker met 3 boys and 4 civil plaintiffs to prepare them before attending trial, at Wat Prasat, Phnom Penh, June 18, 2012.

Facts and figures April - June

- **1225** Boys and girls in school at Pour un Sourire d'Enfants, a NGO taking care of more than 6000 children every day, were made aware on two different occasions of APLE's existence, how to recognize abuse and what to do when witnessing or experiencing it. Around 60% of the students were girls. (April 20 and June 19)
- **100** Tuktuk drivers received two day training in cooperation with ECPAT on child sex exploitation and abuse, on prevention and protection. (April 10 and 11)
- **19** NGO partners received a similar training. (April 25)
- **23** Staff (14 females) from another NGO received training in how to conduct surveillance on child sex offenders and how to collect evidence. (April 22)
- APLE lawyers advocated with the investigating judge at PP Municipal Court to change charge of sexual intercourse with a minor to rape. (April 11)
- APLE lawyers submitted an intervention letter to the President of Kandal Provincial Court requesting to reverse a judge's decision not to charge a suspect. (June 5)
- APLE lawyers prepared 2 motions to the Minister of Justice and the President of Siem Reap Municipal Court protesting the release on bail of 2 suspects in 2 separate cases. (June 19)
- In a third motion to the President of Banteay Meanchey Provincial Court APLE lawyers protested an out of court arrangement between offender and 2 victims' families. (June 22) ([Read the story of Chheam Channary in this issue](#))
- **111** Vulnerable children (56 in Sihanoukville and 55 in Phnom Penh) were educated by APLE social workers about children's rights, exploitation and abuse, grooming techniques and preventive measures.



APLE staff building a child safe community at Phnom Sampov during the annual team building retreat, Battambang province, July 1, 2012.

Donation Page

For being able to work for the better of vulnerable children and adults, APLE relies on donations.

If you have a pay-pal account, just go to our website, or you transfer your donation through our bank account:

Bank name:

Foreign Trade Bank of Cambodia

Bank address:

#3, Street 114 (Kramuon Sar),
Phnom Penh 12203

SWIFT code:

FTCKKHPP

Account name:

APLE Other Donors

Account number:

3040016160

For administrative enquiries,
please call:

023 950 151 from Monday to Friday:
7.30am -12pm and **1.30pm - 5.00pm**

What can we do for the victims with your donation?

- Momentarily we are directly or indirectly involved in the aftercare of more than **500** victims and/or their families.
- For **\$30** we can have a medical examination of a victim, which can be used as forensic proof of abuse.
- For **\$75** per months we can send a child to school, provide school materials, books and buy a bag of rice to support the family.
- For **\$94**, we can run an awareness campaign of one tuk-tuk with banner (printing and monthly allowance for driver) to promote APLE's hotline and report-abuse for one year.
- For **\$100** per month we can send an adult victim to a vocational training course, learning any professional skills ranging from motorbike/car mechanic, welding, hairdressing, teaching, etc. This amount includes accommodation and food.
- **\$150** each APLE social worker spends on all their cases per month.
- **\$800** is needed at each office, so APLE can buy a tuktuk to use for investigations and for transportation of persons and materials to courts or awareness activities around town.
- **\$1000** per year is needed to be able to hand out educational materials concerning abuse and preventive measures and school materials to participants of awareness activities.
- **\$2400** per year is needed to print t-shirts (1 unit \$2,20) with educational messages, to be handed out during awareness campaigns.

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Please report abuse!

If you have any suspicion of sexual abuse, please call our 24 hrs helpline:

092 311 511 or email us: reportabuse@aplecambodia.org

We assure you of strictest confidentiality!

APPLE thanks the following donors for their support.

