Funding

To be able to further prevent and protect children from abuse and exploitation, and to extend and increase the quality of our existing services, we are always in need of finding new funding sources, especially from private donors who are committed to our vision and mission. Only with your financial support, no matter how big or small, we will be able to maintain being the force we are in child protection and child welfare and in bringing child sex offenders and exploiters to legal accountability.

Rapid technological advances contribute enormously to the improvement of investigative operations and therefore to bringing child sex offenders to justice, to increasing the security of the investigators and to optimizing their work. To hold pace with these technical developments though is costly. To stay ahead of the offenders, we basically have to be in the position to upgrade our technical devices every 2-3 years.

To optimize our work and to increase achievements, and as a necessary reaction to changing trends among [traveling] child sex offenders, who tend to change their hunting grounds from urban areas to the rural countryside and who increasingly have changed their grooming techniques towards using modern technology such as internet portals, APLE is currently in the process of re-organizing its structure and its modus operandi. As part of this, APLE will establish around-the-clock operating mobile units, existing of one coordinator, one lawyer, one social worker and a team of investigators, who will actively look for signs of abuse and suspicious behaviors and react to reports of such.

We also want to maintain and increase the quality of our social and legal services and make them more tailor-made for all our clients in order to prevent re-victimization of the victims, smoothen their rehabilitation and increase the amount of successful outcomes in the courts.

In case you want to support us and the children and communities we work for, you can find all relevant data at the end of this newsletter and on our website: www.aplecambodia.org
Ring The Alarm Petition

We and the children we work for need your support. And the only thing you need to do is “give us your signature” and motivate others to do the same.

Child protection organizations Action Pour Les Enfants [APLE] in Cambodia and Operation Bobbi Bear [OBB] in South Africa joined hands after learning about the shocking verdict by the Appeal Court in Leeuwarden in The Netherlands on the 2nd of April 2013, to reverse the ban on pedophile advocacy organization “Martijn”, which was ordered by the court in Assen in June 2012. Martijn promotes that “erotic contacts between adults and children, which are pleasurable and consensual, should be accepted by society.” [Quotation by Martijn]. Several members of the group have served prison terms for child sexual abuse.

APLE and OBB have decided to petition the Dutch government and call for the re-banning of “Martijn” and for the installment of legislation preventing the possibility of (organized) advocacy activities that violate Article 34 of the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child [UNCRC], Article 9 of the UNCRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and Article 8 of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse [Lanzarote Convention].

Please read the petition and sign too if you agree and please ask all your friends and contacts to do the same. Shortly after signing you should receive a confirmation mail. This might end up in your spam folder. Please check it and confirm that you signed, only then is your signature valid. If you have any questions or comments, please send an email to info@ring-the-alarm.com. If you are authorized to sign in the name of an organization, please also think about sending your logo to this email-address.

More information and the possibility to sign under www.ring-the-alarm.com

Signatories:

More logos of signatories: http://ring-the-alarm.com/signatories/
APLE conducts proactive and reactive investigations into suspected incidents of child sexual abuse, child pornography, child prostitution, international pedophilia, child sex tourism, child rape and human trafficking of children for sexual exploitation.

The three office branches investigated in the first quarter a total of 91 cases involving 100 suspects; 52 of these cases were reported to APLE through its network of informants and by the general public through its 24/7 hotline. After thorough investigations, APLE opened 22 new cases for further evidence collection and referred a total of 29 cases to the Anti-Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Units of the Cambodian National Police. In 8 cases information was shared with police agencies of the suspects’ home countries, involving 3 American, 1 Cambodian, 1 German, 1 Belgian, 1 British, 1 Australian and 1 Canadian national.

11 Offenders were arrested as a result of APLE investigations and evidence collection. 3 conspirators were summoned to the police station for questioning, later charged by the prosecutor but not put in pre-trial detention.

On the 4th of April, the Banteay Meanchey Provincial Criminal Investigations Department, supervised by the Deputy Director of the Phnom Penh Anti-Human Trafficking Department arrested and charged a former colonel in the Cambodian military, Mr. K.V., 59, on charges of rape with aggravating circumstances. Following a summons issued by authorities on April 3, Mr. K.V. was questioned for allegedly raping three girls between the ages of 9-13. He was suspected of abusing minors since 2008, when the first parents filed complaints against him. A police spokesman said at the time of the arrest that more than 20 complaints were filed against K.V. Action against the suspect had been slow because many people were afraid of the powerful local figure. Seila Samleang, Country Director for child protection NGO Action Pour Les Enfants, who had been investigating the case in collaboration with the International Justice Mission (IJM), said after the arrest that APLE would offer the victims legal support. He also added to believe the number of victims to be far higher than reported so far.

"The arrest of Mr. K.V. today confirms the government’s firm stance on putting anyone, who sexually abuses children behind bars, regardless of his power or nationality. This arrest ends the long-lasting abuse of those young victims and the danger posed to the community. APLE once again applauds the Cambodian police for their dedication to stop sexual crimes against children," he said.

On the 23rd of April 2013, the Phnom Penh Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Police arrested German national, Mr. H.G., 69 years old, on the suspicion of having abused one 13-year old boy. At the time of his arrest H.G. was on the way in a taxi heading to the airport to catch a flight to Malaysia. During police interrogation the German confessed to have sexually molested this boy and a second boy who could be identified later that day. Both boys testified that they received $5-$10 each in exchange for sexual services. The prosecutor charged him with Indecent Act and Purchase of Child Prostitution with a Minor under the Age of 15 years.
On the 16th of May 2013, Preah Sihanouk Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Police arrested American national C. M., 67, and his Cambodian Godson S.V., 25, on the suspicion of sexually molesting 3 boys aged between 13 and 16 years. They were later officially charged with indecent acts against minors under the age of 15.

C.M. came to Cambodia in 2003 and founded the Victory Baptist Church in Sihanoukville, where he taught English language and bible classes. Both suspects have confessed to having had sex with the boys but argued that it was consensual.

On the 28th of June 2013, after receiving information by APLE, the Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Unit in Battambang city arrested British national J.G.S. from St. Andrews, 47, on the suspicion of having sexually molested at least 5 underage boys aged 13 to 16. During police interrogation, the suspect confessed to the abuse of the minors. Police further found child pornographic images and movies on his computer. The prosecutor charged J.G.S. with Sexual Intercourse with a Minor under the Age of Fifteen Years.

As a result of APLE’s work, three more Cambodians and one Australian national were arrested; and on the 26th of May, 39-year old Korean- Australian Charles Sohn, who previously was convicted in Cambodia for molesting two girls, aged 6 and 10, in Banteay Meanchey province, was finally expelled from the country. Sohn was flown to Korea on the request of his parents who want him to undergo mental treatment there. APLE is disappointed about how the court handled the case. By not deporting him immediately after the lenient sentence and his subsequent release in August 2012, children in Cambodia continuously have been put at risk. Responsible authorities also failed to warrant that Mr. Sohn pays the civil compensation to his victims. APLE has notified responsible authorities and media in Korea about Sohn’s presence and the danger he can pose to society.

Due to APLE’s work, altogether 25 victims [11M/14F] have been rescued and they and their families are receiving social and legal assistance free of charge.
APLE lawyer Mr. Chea Nara and legal assistant Ms. Sok Meartdey assist a 14 year old to testify to the investigating judge, in the case against Cambodian C.R., 33, who was charged with Sexual Intercourse with a Minor under the Age of 15 [Art. 42 of the Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation]. Sihanoukville, June 25, 2013.

A suspected child abuse case was reported to APLE’s hotline. Subsequent investigations and counseling by APLE’s social worker could not confirm the suspected abuse. Phnom Penh, June 18, 2013.

APLE social Ms. Him Sophorn is counseling one of the 3 victims and his mother in the case against Frenchman J.P.A, 71, who has been arrested 3 times in France, 1 time in Thailand and 3 times in Cambodia on the suspicion of child sexual abuse. The verdict in the case will be announced in Phnom Penh, on August 27, 2013.
Social Department

APLE’s 3 social workers gave counseling and other relevant social services to a total of 304 beneficiaries in 93 cases: 110 victims [55M/55F], 129 family members [55M/74F], 6 witnesses [2M/4F] and 59 vulnerable children [29M/30F]. Most of the beneficiaries feel relieved from trauma and other psychological problems after receiving services.

One of the two victims in the case against German national H.G. is Khun Outh [name changed]. He was born in 1999 in Prey Veng Province. He is the eldest of 2 siblings. His family was poor. When Outh turned 11, his father became very sick and died. This left the family behind with tremendous difficulties. A while after his father’s death, Outh, his younger brother and his mother migrated to Phnom Penh, where she re-married. Her new husband always blamed Outh for the family’s troubles and used violence against him, so he decided to leave his family and started living on the streets. He made a living by begging money from tourists, started sniffing glue and became addicted. One day, Outh spotted H.G. and he approached him for money. He asked money for ice cream and H.G. gave Outh two dollars. Shortly afterwards, H.G. started molesting Outh on the bench they were sitting on and in the end gave him an additional $7. APLE’s child protection team who witnessed the abuse, immediately alerted police for intervention. After H.G.’s arrest, APLE’s social worker assisted Outh into joining a child rehabilitation program, receiving psychological support, education and protection. Outh was registered in a safe shelter’s school where he is currently studying in grade 2. After APLE’s social worker found his grandmother in his homeland, Outh said to be more than happy to have her representing him as the civil plaintiff during court proceedings [See also picture page 4].

The three victims in Sihanoukville of American priest C.M. are friends. Bora, Sambath, and Reasey [names changed], all live in the same vulnerable community. The three boys live only with their mothers as the fathers of Bora and Sambath have passed away, whilst the parents of Reasey got divorced when he was young. Being the only breadwinners of the families, their mothers had to look hard every day to make ends meet. The 3 boys always wanted to help their mothers to generate income, almost at any price. In 2012, a priest started living in their community and regularly invited the boys to visit his house, where they made paintings and watched movies. Over time, the priest became more intimate with the boys and started showing pornography to them. The boys felt embarrassed but because of the candies and money provided to them, they continued contacting the priest. The abuse was revealed to APLE’s social worker after an awareness raising session about child sexual abuse issues in the boys’ community by one of their friends. It took the social worker several counseling sessions to gain the ashamed boys’ trust. Only then, they started revealing details of the abusive incidents. After the priest’s and his godson’s arrest, the social worker requested M’lop Tapang aftercare shelter to provide support and vocational training to the 3 boys. The social worker is regularly following up with the boys who continue living with their mothers, to ensure their safety and well-being. APLE’s lawyers will represent the boys free of charge during court proceedings. [See picture on page 5]

Below: Social worker Ms. Va Sokunthea is raising awareness about child sexual abuse, grooming techniques of offenders and preventive measures among a group of vulnerable children in Sangkat 1, Sihanoukville, May 28, 2013

Right: A boy reading an APLE information card containing the 24/7 hotline number 092 311 511 to report suspicions of abuse, Svay Smachnheam village, Koh Kong province, June 20, 2013

Project Results
January 2003–June 2013
Social Services

| Total # victims | 604 |
| Total # witnesses: | 26 |
| Total # vulnerable children: | 754 |
| Total # family members: | 534 |
Beneficiaries in 67 separate cases have received legal support such as legal assistance, legal counseling and legal representation before, during and after the court procedures: 124 victims [60M/64F], 13 witnesses [6M/7F], 120 family members [41M/79F] and 33 vulnerable children [15M/18F].

On Monday the 20th of May 2013, a British Court sentenced David Graham, 48, to 21 months imprisonment for sexually molesting one boy in Cambodia in 2006. The sentencing came as a result of international cooperation between APLE, the Cambodian National Police [CNP] and the UK’s Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre [CEOP]. Graham was arrested for the in Cambodia committed crimes after his return to the UK in 2006; but while investigations were still ongoing, Graham was released on bail and fled the country. He was re-arrested in France on January 15, 2013 and sent back to the UK to face charges. His conviction means that he will now also be placed on the Sex Offenders Register and be subject to notification orders upon his release from prison. On the day of the sentencing, APLE Country Director Seila Samleang said: “This is a great victory in the global fight against child sexual abuse. The CNP, APLE and CEOP worked closely together to make sure Mr. Graham was tracked down and brought to justice and this case conveys a strong message that you have to think twice before flying down to Cambodia to look for sex with children. We hope this sets a benchmark for other foreign countries.”

In the morning of the 25th of June 2013, the Siem Reap Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Unit arrested Australian citizen S.G., 51, on the suspicion of sexually molesting at least 3 underage boys, after these 3 boys testified to police that the suspect had fondled and touched them indecently. Despite the testimonies of the victims, the prosecutor in charge decided to release the suspect and not to charge him at the moment. Police confiscated his passport to prevent him from fleeing and will proceed with further investigations. APLE’s social and legal teams are assisting the 3 boys, while the APLE child protection agents are assisting police to identify and locate four more boys who he allegedly tried to bring into the hotel he was staying in.

In June, one Cambodian national received a prison sentence of 24 months from which 6 months were suspended for procuring prostitution with aggravating circumstances. 27-Year old Sim Da was convicted for attempting to sell the virginity of two women aged 15 and 21 [See: Newsletter #3, page 16]. On June 6, she testified in Court that she was merely helping the girls to find work in a garment factory. She told the court that she had their health tested because “….if they had HIV, they would not be allowed to work at the factory.” Both victims, one working in a garment factory and one studying in a beauty salon, were represented free of charge by APLE lawyer Ms. San Sony. Both victims are struggling with their meager income. APLE’s social worker Ms. Him Sophorn will continue to follow-up with the two women to warrant that they will not be re-victimized and is currently trying to find an NGO that can assist them in acquiring skills to increase their job options.
This is why we exist!
Prevention Program

In 19 awareness and training sessions, a total amount of 635 individuals participated in education about the impact of child sexual abuse and exploitation and preventive measures among them 111 community people [27M/84F], 58 local authorities [23M/35F], 300 students [164M/136F], 42 NGO personnel [24M/18F], 47 community children [25 M/22F], 35[M] tuktuk drivers and 42 administrative police officers [41M/1F]. All participants have better understanding on all relevant issues and they committed themselves to report suspicious behaviors and signs of abuse to APLE or to police.

After the two training sessions for the administrative police officers, officers suggested APLE to conduct similar and longer training sessions on various other child sexual abuse related topics.

“In the future, we will be the society.” Help us protecting children and sign the mutual petition from APLE - Cambodia and OBB - South Africa. Please visit: www.ring-the-alarm.com [See also page 3]
Facts and Figures

○ From the 24th until the 28th of June 2013, Mr. Yi Moden participated in a workshop titled “Children on the Move, Campaign Planning and Communication Strategies” with participants from Lao, Burma, Cambodia, and Thailand, at Royal Benja Hotel in Bangkok. The workshop was organized by Terre des Hommes - Netherlands and The OAK Foundation.

○ From the 25th to the 28th of June, APLE Country Director Mr. Seila Samleang participated in a workshop in Thailand organized by Terre des Hommes to discuss training manuals for TdH’s partners in “Project Watch” at eight locations in Indonesia, India, Nepal and The Philippines. The partners will start investigations into suspected child sexual abuse and exploitation activities in their countries, based on the experiences made by APLE in Cambodia. From August 19 to 28, APLE will provide an initial training in Phnom Penh to 1 project coordinator and 32 investigators newly recruited for Project Watch. Afterwards subsequent training will continue at the project locations.

○ APLE Siem Reap staff successfully advocated with the responsible authorities to have a girl, who recently had been a victim in two cases investigated by APLE, being removed from the streets in Siem Reap to a safe shelter in Phnom Penh, where she will rehabilitate and receive education.

○ APLE staff successfully prevented 4 children from withdrawing their initial complaints, they will hold the perpetrators accountable for their offenses.

○ In 3 cases APLE successfully advocated with the prosecutors to have the compensation orders from the courts implemented.

○ APLE successfully advocated with the deputy prosecutor to have a girl removed from the streets to a safe shelter in Phnom Penh where she will rehabilitate and receive vocational training. She had been victimized in 2 cases within this quarter.

○ APLE successfully advocated with the deputy police commissioner of Preah Sihanouk province to take actions against police officers who don’t deliver court warrants in an appropriate manner. The deputy promised to forward future obstructions to the commissioner for disciplinary actions.

APLE Sihanoukville Project Manager Mr. Yi Moden was invited as a speaker at an international conference in Noordwijkherout (NL) with 200 participants on innovative approaches to child abuse images and traveling child sex offenders, organized by The Dutch Reinforcement Program against Child Abuse (Images) of the Royal Dutch Police in cooperation with the Public Prosecutor’s Office. The Netherlands, April 15-16, 2013.
Donation Page

Without the financial support of the following institutions or persons, APLE would not be able to prevent children from abuse, rescue victims from trafficking and exploitation, protect their rights, and bring offenders to justice. We owe you our deepest respect and gratitude:

- Global Humanitaria-Spain
- Terre Des Hommes-Netherlands
- Stop Exploitation Now
- ADM Capital Foundation
- New Day Asia
- To Holdings AS
- Swiss Embassy in Bangkok
- Acting for Life International
- Table de Cana
- Exo Foundation
- Individual Donors

To be able to work for the better future of vulnerable children and adults, APLE relies on donations. If you have a PayPal 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 (Kramoun Sar), Phnom Penh 12203

**SWIFT code:**
FTCCKHPP

**Account name:**
APLE Other Donors

**Account number:**
3040016160

We kindly thank you for your consideration supporting us in combating child sexual abuse and exploitation and human trafficking for sexual and labor exploitation.

For administrative inquiries, please call:
023 950 151 or 012 584 194
Monday to Friday: 8.00am -12pm and 1.30pm - 5.00pm

“In the future, we will be the society.” Help us protecting children and sign the mutual petition from APLE - Cambodia and OBB - South Africa. Please visit: www.ring-the-alarm.com [See also page 3]
What can we do with your donation?

Presently we are directly or indirectly involved in the aftercare of more than 500 victims and/or their families. Thanks to recent quick and massive support from individuals, institutions and foundations from all corners of the world and from increased cooperation and coordination from and with other NGOs, continuity of APLE services to children that need protection is guaranteed for the near future. But we are still in need for your support for late 2013 and beyond. We will update you as soon as possible on our website: www.aplecambodia.org, or on: www.facebook.com/aple.cambodia, and in the next issue of this newsletter.

Following are examples of minimum needs to conduct activities as part of our investigation programs, social support programs, legal support programs, and awareness raising and training programs. Donations of any size help us to implement these:

- **$30** enable us to have a medical examination of a child which can be used as forensic evidence in court.
- **$94** enable us to run an awareness campaign on one tuk-tuk with banner (including printing and annual allowance for driver) for one year to promote APLE’s hotline 092 311 511 to report abuse.
- **$260** on average is needed to offer free legal representation to one victim at the first court of instance.
- **$450** is needed to buy a good camera for investigations.
- **$620** is needed to print 200 t-shirts (1 unit $3,10) with educational messages, to be handed out during awareness and training campaigns.
- **$800** is needed to buy a tuk-tuk to use for investigations, transportation of persons and materials to courts, and to conduct awareness and training activities around town and nearby provinces.
- **$7,890** is the average amount monthly needed to run all operations of the Siem Reap branch, which covers 8 provinces and Laos.
- **$8,050** is the average amount monthly needed to run all operations of the Sihanoukville branch, which covers 5 provinces and Thailand.
- **$23,450** is the average amount monthly needed to run all operations of the Phnom Penh branch, which covers 6 provinces and Vietnam.

We kindly thank you for your consideration supporting us in combating child sexual abuse and exploitation.
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!

APLE Cambodia Offices:
Head Office: Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Branch Offices: Siem Reap, Sihanoukville

E-mail: info@aplecambodia.org
Telephone: +855 (0) 23 996 351
Fax: +855 (0) 23 996 351
Mobile: +855 (0) 12 584 194

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