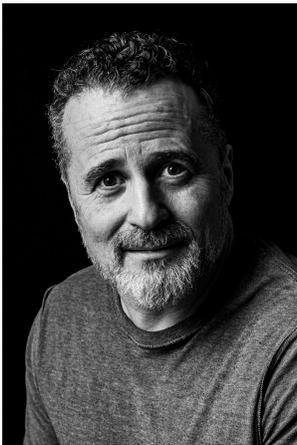




Figure 1 - Map of Indonesia

# Indonesia you don't want to see

Despite more than 100,000 women and children victims of sex trafficking every year, very little is mentioned of this country when we're talking about human trafficking.



By Daniel Jean, photojournalist

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Indonesia is an archipelago of 17,600 islands. Its 87% of people who use Islam make it the largest Muslim country in the world.<sup>1</sup>

Indonesia has a population of 257,563,815 people. 51% of the population is under 30, 26.2% of the population is under 15.<sup>1</sup>

11% of the population lives below the poverty line .<sup>1</sup>



According to the **Asian Sentinel**<sup>2</sup>, there are no less than 100,000 women and girls victims of sex trafficking in Indonesia. Boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 18 are sent to Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore for sexual exploitation.

Other data suggests that between 40,000 and 70,000 children are trafficked there.

According to **Ecpat Global Monitoring**, located in Chang Mai, Thailand, Indonesia ranks 111th out of 182 countries in terms of the human development index.<sup>3</sup>

According to a 2016 article found on THE CONVERSATION<sup>4</sup>, Indonesia is aware that 30% of prostitutes in the country are underage girls who are forced into prostitution.

Also according to THE CONVERSATION, Indonesia is the # 1 destination for both Australian and Indonesian sex tourists wishing to sexually abuse Indonesian children and adolescents.

### Indonesia is not on the radar

Exhaustive research on the Internet, however, reveals that there are very few organizations in the world involved in the fight against sex trafficking of Indonesian youth.<sup>5</sup>

On the **End Slavery Now** site, a search in their database tells us that apart from Talitha Koumi, there is no Canadian organization involved in the fight against this kind of trafficking.



Elsewhere in the world, the organizations involved in Indonesia can be counted on the fingers of one hand. It is clear that efforts are concentrated on Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines.

In Indonesia, there are a handful of foundations and NGOs doing their best, but without adequate resources, the effects are slow to be felt.

### **Sources used for the writing of this article**

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