I, OUXI, will say as follows:

1. **Sensitive/Irrelevant**

2. There are serious risks associated with doing the type of work that I do. That is why I have requested anonymity in these proceedings. I am a firm believer in open justice, but I cannot reveal my identity in case it jeopardises my safety and/or that of my informants or undermines my undercover work. Due to my undercover work dangerous criminals have been apprehended and arrested. It is therefore important for my identity to remain outside of the public domain.

3. The safety of my informants is also very important to me and the work that I do. A key feature of my undercover work is the safety of the people I work with. I never work alone. I am always accompanied by
people I trust. My targets sometimes see my associates with me and they have contact with them. Due to incompetence of the local law enforcement systems they are sometimes even asked to testify in place of me. Whilst I can fly home, these people remain in the dangerous areas and it is therefore very important that their safety is never jeopardised.

4. This statement includes both information which can be made public and some sensitive information which may tend to identify me, or which concerns ongoing investigations.

**Undercover work exposing child sexual exploitation**

5. I have been working in Southeast Asia for several years in undercover investigations which expose OSEC. This phenomenon, which is the major international crime of our age, happens around the world as OSEC sex offenders in my experience are mostly but not exclusively based in western (developed) countries. It is a large and invisible industry, especially in the Philippines where OSEC has exploded. Every year 10,000 new Filipino minors are estimated to become involved in OSEC. According to estimates at least 750,000 people are at any given moment looking online for OSEC. But it also takes place in South America where child abuse is rampant, and the industry is sometimes run by drug cartels, where demand is created by US nationals and by Europeans who go to South American and the Caribbean. Cyber-sex dens are also appearing on the African continent (e.g. Kenya) with the increase in better internet connection.

6. While abuse starts with cybersex, this abuse escalates and often leads to foreign men contacting local fixers or those arranging child sexual abuse online to carry out hands on abuse. Child Sexual Tourism has
increased dramatically. Some of the abuse requested is extremely sick and sadistic. I know of a case of a customer who wanted to pay a mother to cut up her daughter in front of him. The case of the Australian Peter Scully is also extreme and shows the horrific nature of this form of abuse. In another case a man trafficked a minor to his home country where she was gruesomely abused.

7. Sensitive/Irrelevant I work to uncover criminal networks feeding on OSEC, and to find the people behind the operations including those who are supplying children but also those who are creating the demand. I am trying to understand the phenomenon and follow its fast-changing profile, tracking the hotspots, and the child trafficking routes. I collect the data (online, in criminal environments, as well as in shelters and in certain so-called “entertainment” areas), make reports and then I share this with law enforcement. This work is necessary since foreign police often do not have any jurisdiction and they may not be able to carry out the investigations or they may not have the budget to carry out investigations. Local and foreign police are understaffed, have limited resources, and are burdened by bureaucracy and a huge volume of child sex abuse material, (sometimes referred to as “youth produced material”). More and more adults hide behind minors who are functioning as recruiters and pimps. As OSEC goes viral an increasing amount of OSEC material is offered by minors without the involvement of adults. I therefore have to make sure that my investigations and reports are thorough, otherwise the police will not take any action.

8. Another aspect that I would highlight is that informants, especially in the world of trafficking and sex work, can be unpredictable. This makes recruiting and managing a network of informants a long-term and delicate process. Sensitive/Irrelevant
It is essential I can trust my most close informants and assistants fully. I can never operate or meet minors without an assistant. They are my safeguard, cover, guide and ‘canary in a coalmine.’

9. Some police forces such as the USA’s Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) have agents on the ground and have better links with local police which assist with investigations and training.¹ This is helpful since the local police forces have little resources and manpower and are often focused on other crimes set by Presidential policy - for example, combatting drugs. Ironically, OSEC thrives in environments where lots of drugs are trafficked. Many OSEC suppliers, facilitators and minors use crystal meth (also known as shabu), which makes undercover work even more dangerous. Local police forces also regularly change and the lack of resources affects the quality of local police investigations.

10. Another issue is that if foreign nationals get arrested they can usually pay a small amount to get bail and then the foreign national flees. This presents a challenge on the ground for dealing with these types of offences.

11. Lastly, the weaknesses of the legal system in the Philippines increase the chance of offenders escaping the country before they are brought to justice.

12. The sad reality is that OSEC often takes place in a dangerous context on the ground. It happens in environments of extreme poverty. Suppliers

depend on a network of adults who provide them with children. Sometimes they are helped by police or people in an official capacity. For child trafficking, as OSEC is called in the Philippines, the sentence is a lifetime prison sentence which makes contact with suppliers dangerous. Furthermore, set-ups are not uncommon, often in collaboration with corrupt police officers. For example, in Mindanao in Southern Philippines there is an autonomous region (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or ARMM) with the presence of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group. Women, girls and children are trafficked to Arab countries. There is a lot of trafficking of children in and around the region. There are also groups which target and traffic children to be sexually exploited by foreign men. Sensitive/Relevant Indigenous girl Sensitive/Relevant Trafficked by a notorious sex trafficker called Jerrie Arraz. A journalist called Patricia Evangelista has written about her story Sensitive/Relevant3 As the story reports, the young women who were exploited lived through years of horrendous abuse and trauma at the hands of Arraz and foreign, Western men. While the girls were initially sexual exploited on camera for foreign men this then turned into hands on abuse. They were forced to have sex with foreign men. In effect, they were held in sexual slavery.

13. I am also aware of another case of an organised cybersex operation which led to an arrest of a US national, Jesse York, who specialised in sexual exploitation involving a transgender dimension.4 However, the individual arrested then allegedly bribed the police. I understand that

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the individual is wealthy and is well connected politically. He is therefore a protected and dangerous individual.

14. OSEC is not only operated by sophisticated criminal networks or by traffickers. The conditions of poverty mean that the suppliers are mostly family members living in extreme poverty who show pictures of their own children and organise “sex shows”. There is a whole spectrum of abuse in the Philippines. It is not only a problem of organised gangs. Suppliers can be found, for example, on live-streaming sites, dating sites, Facebook groups such as ‘Filipino Boys for Gay Travellers’ and others, in chat groups, and other platforms like WeChat, LiveChat and so on.

15. I was involved in a high-profile investigation a number of years ago which led to the arrest of traffickers, pimps and operators of cybersex dens in the Philippines. This investigation led to the arrest and conviction of five Filipino nationals operating the cybersex dens which live streamed child sexual abuse. The operation has also focused on investigating the many foreign offenders who pay for the live streaming of child sexual abuse. The case provided the opportunity for law enforcement on the ground to move beyond rescuing victims and apprehending operators to tackle the root of the criminal networks which are the perpetrators, predominantly foreign offenders, who create the demand for child sexual exploitation.

16. In my investigation of the cybersex den, I found that there were several British men asking for sex shows with children. There were payments made. A UK man called was in fact one of the worst. He wanted to view the sexual exploitation of very young children, and he made explicit requests in relation to a particular young child who I
know has since been rescued. Others were and others.

provided the family, who operated the cybersex den in with their dropbox facility and someone capable of doing this is likely to have had a lot of experience in this domain. It fits a common pattern which I have seen, in which suppliers are educated by the viewing offenders on how to store and access materials.

17. I am extremely concerned about whether any effective action has been taken by the UK authorities in relation to these individuals and whether any of them have yet been apprehended.

18. In my experience, with this type of offending British offenders, along with Americans, Australians and other Europeans, are all too common.

19. As a consequence of this investigation outlined above many foreign nationals have been arrested in their home countries. Due to my undercover involvement, many foreign law enforcement agencies interviewed me and requested information. For example, the Norwegian police (Kripos) flew me to Oslo and interviewed me at length. They had arrested a man in Norway based on my data. This individual who was arrested abused the same child as a British national who was arrested on 2018. Both and the Norwegian were involved in the same incident, however, the reactions of the British and Norwegian authorities were very different as I will explain further below.

20. A Belgian national was also arrested as a result of my work and information I provided to the Belgian police. The German police (BKA)
also asked me for information and the Dutch police (BBTK) met with me a number of times and subsequently made a number of arrests.

21. In 2016 after the raid in the Philippines I informed the National Crime Agency (NCA) liaison officer about a British national, who I had identified through the investigation. It took the NCA two years to effectively react to my data about the British national. Perhaps they were working behind the scenes on this case, (I do not have any information on this), but the ways in which Norway and Britain reacted to information about the same incident leads me to think that the NCA were slow to apprehend Kripos, the Norwegian law enforcement agency, went to the Philippines, interviewed the victim and arrested the man involved much quicker than the NCA. The fact is that Kripos launched an immense effort after the arrest to unearth data in Norway as well as in the Philippines. They travelled several times to the Philippines. Also, they will soon have a permanent presence in Manila to specifically deal with OSEC.

22. I am also aware that a particular girl who was abused both by and the Norwegian now has a Norwegian lawyer. My understanding is that the coverage of the matter in Norway combined with her having her own lawyer has resulted in pressure being brought to bear on the Government in relation to reparation for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse by their own nationals abroad.

23. Following arrest in 2018, I had contact with and the NCA international liaison officer. I also emailed the NCA but I have no further information. They were far less responsive than Kripos who asked me by email for other information about Norwegian offenders and more details about the case is involved in.
24. The UK authorities in my experience seem to be far behind the other law enforcement agencies in tackling OSEC. They seem to lack a presence on the ground and do not have a presence at other important international agenda setting forums. For example, I went to the Interpol conference in Lyon and Singapore in November 2016, 2017 and 2018. This conference is attended by highly regarded experts in law enforcement from around the world working to combat this crime. From my recollection, NCA personnel were in attendance but over the past few years they have been attendees rather than taking an active role. In contrast, the Dutch, Australians, Canadians, Norwegians and Americans present their best practices and give a lot of helpful advice on the methods that they use to scare and combat online predators. The UK rarely shares its best practices and it is unclear as to what they are doing. In fact, compared to some of the other forces the UK regime is almost non-existent on the ground in the Philippines. Thus while I cannot comment on the specifics of the UK civil regime, in my experience, the UK lags behind other countries.

25. For example, HSI have officers on the ground who makes arrests in the Philippines. There is a Dutch liaison officer based in Manila and a Norwegian officer will also soon be based in Manila. The reality is that you need law enforcement to be in Manila or on the ground because you need to know where the centres of exploitation are. You need to see where OSEC suppliers and customers are meeting, understand the phenomenon and to visit the victims in the shelters to obtain information. You need to build a rapport with the local people, the NGOs and certainly the PNP, the Women and Children Protection Centre (WCPC) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). The most effective way of engaging with the police is through face to face
meetings with personal contacts. Emails and telephones messages mostly stay unanswered.

26. The case provides a stark example of the difference in approach of the British to the Norwegian police when investigating OSEC. The Norwegian police came to the Philippines, they went to the shelter and interviewed the victim. To my knowledge, the British did not do this perhaps because there is no British liaison officer in Manila. The liaison officer is based elsewhere in Bangkok or in another country. How can you deal with the many British predators going from your country to other destinations if you are in fact somewhere else? You need to be on the ground and you need to collaborate with local NGOs who have the knowledge. The Dutch police did exactly that in the case

27. This on the ground presence is important because individuals who commit these types of crimes often travel to countries and places such as Hong Kong, Bangkok and Dubai first and then fly to the Philippines. They travel to countries where there is little intelligence sharing or cooperation, meaning that these predators can enter and leave countries easily, even if they are barred from entry. For example, I know of a Swiss national who is barred from entering the Philippines but once out of jail, he can fly via a route where he knows this would not be checked.

28. I have been asked specific questions on the effectiveness of the UK civil orders regime. I am not specifically aware of the specificities of the UK legal framework but I would question how effective the system is if the Internet allows for offenders to be anonymous online and if offenders can offend so easily once they are abroad? Further, many offenders (both those who commit online and those who commit hands on abuse) do not have criminal records. Specifically, in relation to the UK, I can
only comment that I do not have experience of this regime and I am unaware as to whether any British perpetrators I have come across have had civil orders.

29. I have also been asked to comment on section 72, or the extra-territorial powers of the UK. Whilst I am aware that countries such as Australia and the US arrest individuals for crimes in the Philippines and elsewhere, I was not aware that the UK had those powers. I have recently been told about the case of the UK national, Douglas Slade, because five of his Filipino victims successfully testified through a videolink to a High Court judge in London, but I have no personal experience of dealing with an extra-territorial investigation by British law enforcement. Extra-territorial prosecutions are very important, and they are effective. This is especially important in countries where rich people, predominantly from Western countries, pay for their bail and then flee the country. They can bribe officials, as had happened in the Slade and many other cases, which allows them to leave or exploit the fact that a victim may not want to cooperate with the authorities due to very difficult circumstances, for example when a child is exploited by a family member. There is a lucrative dark business in Filipino courtrooms to allow foreign child sex offenders or wealthy Filipinos to go free.

30. Another reason that a local prosecution might not be preferable is that children are cross-examined and undergo traumatising questioning and proceedings in countries such as the Philippines. Tiny inconsistencies are used by defence lawyers to argue that the witnesses, who have suffered years of abuse, are not credible. This happened to the witnesses in a case involving a US national who was accused of having abused an 11 and 9-year-old child. The 11-year-old, who was 12 at the time of trial, was subject to terrible interrogation and her evidence was
discredited on the basis that she got one date wrong. I provide these examples to show why extra-territorial powers are important and must be used in relation to a country’s own nationals.

31. Based on my experience of investigating OSEC in Southeast Asia, I think it is simple: anyone involved in child sex abuse in the UK should not be allowed to travel to Southeast Asia. Douglas Slade had been accused of child sexual abuse in the UK years previously. How is it that he could go and live in Angeles City, the worst and most notorious prostitution area of the Philippines where paedophiles can blend in with regular sex tourists? In my view prevention is better than cure.

32. I have also been asked questions about the UK’s statutory vetting and barring regime. Again, I do not know the specifics of the UK system, but I would like to say two general things. First, after the typhoon Hayan devastated part of the Philippines in 2013, many foreign NGOs came to assist with disaster relief. Around this time, I was told by a high level Philippines government official that children were disappearing. The suggestion was that there was a direct correlation between disaster relief and child trafficking which has also happened in other contexts. Secondly, a lot of foreign nationals set up orphanages, work sometimes as volunteers and some of these people are offenders and predators. These people are not vetted. It is necessary to protect vulnerable children if these individuals were automatically vetted.
Statement of truth:
I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed: .................................................................
        (OUXI)

Dated: