

A Father's Anguish

I am a father of a 7-year-old child who was sexually abused. I had lodged a police report since the end of 2012 about the incident involving the suspect (an adult man) who lives in the same area as my family. I only wish to look for [justice](#) and do not intend to frame anyone. Unfortunately my family's experience with the concerned agencies was quite disappointing, especially in terms of the implementation of laws and protection for our child.

From the day I reported the abuse, the police investigating officer did not clarify the investigating actions. Instead, I was repeatedly reminded that these kind of case is tough to investigate and likely will be dropped. I was treated with suspicion and disdain, as if I was the suspect instead of a victim's father.

This lackadaisical attitude continued when the police were about to arrest and put the suspect under remand, when my wife and I were asked to go and check whether the suspect was in his house or otherwise. The investigating officer even complained to my child's teacher about this case, as if it is a burden, and not the responsibility of the police to investigate.

What breaks my heart the most is when my child said to me, *"Daddy, in the future if the bad guy does to this to me again, there's no need to report to police because the police cannot act... even when they arrest people the person is now let free"* As a father, hearing this is unbearably painful as my little child, who is only 7-years-old, has already lost confidence in the police.

The social welfare officer only came to see my child once at the hospital, and their role to protect my child was not clear. The officer showed suspicion towards my child's facts, and instead suggested that my wife and I had showed pornographic videos to our child!

I did not see any of commitment of the welfare officer asking about my child's welfare, meeting up and following up on this case, for example by monitoring my child's recovery from the trauma of sexual abuse.

My child as the victim, was increasingly disappointed and became disillusioned seeing that the suspect was allowed to still have contact with other children in our residential area. This had disrupted the process of our child's healing from the incident.

Where is the justice for my child? We are the suffering children and parents who had dared to voice out, how about those who are forced to keep being silent because of such negative attitude and handling of these crimes by the enforcement agencies?

I am very disappointed because the policies and laws that look good on paper, have failed, not been implemented at all or properly being carried out. My purpose in voicing out is only to seek redress as a father whose child is sexually abused. I believe that other parents will do the same things I did, to seek justice if this had happened to their child, no matter what their position, occupation or status.

Note: WCC has giving counselling and supporting this case by following up with all the relevant agencies.