



## Cuba ... Hawaii ... Mexico ... ???



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*Wise Words...  
Wise Counsel*

### Opinion Poll

Police are reviewing their use of stun guns after the death of Robert Dzeikaniski at Vancouver Airport. Do you think:

- Stun guns should be banned?
- Current stun gun use is acceptable?
- Police procedures need to change?

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## BREAKING NEWS

### Human-rights group helping young sex-trade victims

By Staff  
Saturday, November 17, 2007

Foreign aid workers risk getting kicked out of the countries they're working in if they raise too many questions about young girls being forced into the sex trade, a Kelowna audience heard Saturday. Corrupt local authorities, acting in concert with brothel owners, may threaten to reject visa renewals of aid workers if they protest too much about the illegal practice, said Jamie McIntosh of International Justice Mission Canada (IJMC). He relayed the story of one aid agency that was involved in providing education to more than 300 girls in an underdeveloped country. The workers noticed that a few of the girls were missing, and suspected they'd been abducted and forced to work as underage prostitutes serving tourists.

"They were told by the local authorities, 'If you want to keep ministering to these 300 children, just forget about those three,'" McIntosh told a group of about 40 people who came to The Grand hotel to hear him speak about the work of IJMC.

It relies on a team of active and retired police officers, lawyers and social workers to rescue victims of sexual exploitation and convince local authorities to prosecute offenders. The organization also tries to help people who have been pressed into virtual slavery, lost their land due to illegal seizure or been victims of police brutality in Third World countries. Such injustices shouldn't happen, given that many foreign countries have legislation similar to that which exists in the developed world, McIntosh said.

"But the law says one thing, and reality says another," he said. "In many places, it's open season on the poor and vulnerable."

Around the world, he said, an estimated 27 million people live in conditions amounting to slavery, and one million young people are forced into the sex trade every year. A typical operation mounted by IJMC involves the gathering of evidence, removal of the victim to a safe place, and the bringing of pressure on local authorities to address the situation, by laying charges. It can be difficult work, McIntosh acknowledged, but he said the organization has had good success in improving the lives of thousands of people who've been victims of various injustices, and he appealed for Canadians to support the agency with their donations.

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