

CATEGORY: Addressing suspicion of abuse	Case Study # 4
TITLE: Abuse of street children-not affiliated with the school	updated: 12-28-2014
SUB-TITLE: Continued hiring for 5 years without background checks or criminal record	
LOCATION: Africa	
<p>At a school in Africa the new Head of School had grave doubts about a teacher who had been hired by his predecessor as an emergency hire for a last minute vacancy. There were a variety of problems with the man such as ineffective classroom practice and excessive drinking, but no obvious abusive behaviour while at school.</p> <p>While the HOS was on summer holiday the school Business Manager called her. She had reports that this teacher was paying for the favours of young street children. She called his previous school in a neighbouring African country and was told that he had been let go for the same behaviour in that country. Likewise the school where he worked prior to that school had let him go for the same reason.</p> <p>The HOS instructed the Business Manager to do her best to get the teacher put in jail. The American Embassy assisted and indeed a local judge sent him to prison but did not schedule a trial. Eventually, the administrators were told, he got money from his elderly parents and used it to bribe the parents of the boys he had molested.</p> <p>The charges were dropped and he fled the country. But in this day of social media “friends” of his on Facebook reported that he had gone to California. There, with the help of a prominent international placement agency he landed a job at a prestigious school. The HOS called the school but the teacher had already been let go after one of his previous school directors had called them to report on the man’s background in Africa.</p> <p>What is significant here is that the three schools that he worked for in Africa were not listed in his CV. Somehow he got his job in California without accounting for a 5 year stretch in three schools.</p> <p>Since there was no conviction, there was no record to follow him.</p> <p>US law enforcement was monitoring his activities and alerted an international school organization to Mr. P’s presence at a school in Bahrain. An official at the organization called the school to advise them to contact the school in Togo to ask about his conduct while there. The head of school wrote back and confirmed that Mr. P had been accused and jailed in Togo.</p> <p>The school in Bahrain had never conducted a criminal background check. Also, the school culture explicitly avoids discussion of anything of a sexual nature.</p> <p>Quote from the School Principal, Bahrain: <i>“Upon receiving your email, the school</i></p>	

leadership had met to discuss the course of action required to safeguard our students as well as to honor Mr. P's rights and confidentiality.

The Principal called and met the Security Officer at the US Embassy. He then attempted confirmation from Mr. P's previous employers prior to meeting with Mr. P. When the Principal and I met with Mr. Page, Mr. P confirmed accusations and iterated that he was not convicted.

Without additional information, the school has taken the precaution of terminating Mr. P's employment with the school as of April 9, 2015.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the school for bringing this situation to our attention.”

QUESTIONS-COMMENTS-CAVEATS:

See the 30 Guiding Questions
