Revenge Porn in the Philippines

The Dark Side of Filipino Social Media

By Jason Cruz (jsncruz)

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My life pretty much revolves around social media. Probably, yours as well. Chances are, our common denominator is the fact that we both have a Facebook account. You could also be one of the ten million Filipinos on Twitter, and one of another ten million on Google+. My point is, we are separated from each other no longer by physical barriers but whether or not we’re Friends, Following each other, or are in each other’s circles.

Unfortunately for many individuals, many of them women, complete strangers know just a little too much about them from a not-unheard-of phenomena that through social media has become the deadly new tool of angry and resentful individuals. It’s called ‘revenge porn’ and this article sheds some light on how it starts, how you can protect yourself, and the steps you can take should you (or a friend/relative) become a victim.
Protecting Yourself from Revenge Porn in the Philippines

The Digital “Tarring and Feathering”

The Middle Ages (and several centuries after that) saw a method of publicly humiliating individuals. It involved pouring hot tar on a person and covering him/her with feathers, then paraded in public. Revenge porn in the Philippines works more or less the same way; in a predominantly religion-influenced country, to have one’s most private (and intimate) moments shared with and to the world probably ranks very high on the embarrassment scale.

As far as my rudimentary research on revenge porn in the Philippines goes, it begins in an almost predictable formula: Victim (most often a girl) sends private and intimate pictures to lover; they break up; angry and resentful lover posts the photos on Internet sites; pictures travel far and wide via social media; victim is emotionally traumatized and the shame lasts for a significant period of time.

What is terrible is that the Internet sites hosting these pictures and/or videos aren’t legally required to 1) reveal who sent the materials, and 2) take down the images/video clips upon the request of the victim. The best move, therefore, is to help prevent revenge porn from happening to you in the first place, whether you’re a college student or a working professional.

Avoiding Revenge Porn in the Philippines (and Everywhere Else)

The power of social media in this issue is incredible – and double-edged. Becoming famous via revenge porn is certainly not the suggested way of becoming famous, so taking the following steps could help:

Don’t take private or intimate pictures or videos in the first place. It sounds like common sense to many people, but after hearing stories from both victims and those who currently share ‘captured moments’ with a loved one, these pictures/videos are treated as harmless and there is a great level of trust between the two – until it goes public and presents one with a personal PR nightmare.

If you do have them already, have a serious talk with your partner and agree to delete all copies of these media. The similarity between nearly all revenge porn instances is that there was simply no suspicion that the jilted lover would commit an act that will both disgrace and humiliate his/her former partner. It’s all good when times are rosy, but people do stupid things when emotional.

Now, pay it forward to potential and actual victims of revenge porn:
Stop searching, watching, and saving revenge porn pictures and/or videos. Put yourself in the shoes not of the victim but the victim’s parents or children. The pain to the family of the person should also be a concern. There was already one prick (whoever uploaded or submitted the image/video) – there’s no need to add yourself to the list.

Report suspicions of revenge porn in the Philippines to the proper authorities, especially if you think the victim may be a minor. I’m not going to recommend specific bodies as I am personally unsure of which ones will take action, but women’s rights groups and welfare bodies are good places to start. I wouldn’t recommend news networks; we’re trying to protect identities here, remember?

If you know someone who is about to upload or submit to a website a kind of revenge porn, have a serious talk with them. Try your best to convince him/her that this is not a wise course of action, and that it will only end up hurting him/her, as well as countless other individuals aside from the actual victim. It’s just not nice.

Revenge porn in the Philippines is nothing new, not in our country or the world at large, but as part of one of the biggest social media communities in the world (the Philippines alone has about 31 million people on Facebook) we can certainly do our part in keeping the Internet safe both for us and our children.

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Staying Safe from Revenge Porn in the Philippines

For more on social media, take a minute to visit my my personal blog.


Look more here: https://aboutphilippines.ph/media.html