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Stop Trans Murders in Guatemala

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[1]Join the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission [2] (IGLHRC) and OTRANS Reinas de la Noche [1] in calling on Guatemalan President, Mr. Alvaro Colom, and other authorities to condemn and seek justice in the murders of Kenia Mayli, Jessica Andreina and Sabrian Garcia Cajas, as well as to take measures to prevent the murders of trans people in Guatemala in the future.

Three trans women murdered in Guatemala

Three trans women were brutally murdered in Guatemala in just one week between October 26 and November 2, 2009.

On Monday October 26th, Kenia Mayli was shot to death in the center of Guatemala City. Her body showed signs that she was tortured by being hit by a car around her head and shoulders before she was shot.

Then, on Saturday, October 31, Jessica Andreina's body was found by other trans women colleagues, in the city of Puerto Barros, departament of Izabal, in the north of the country. She was also killed by gunfire.

Shortly thereafter, on Monday November 2nd, Sabrina Garcia Carjas, was stoned to death. Sabrina was a member of the organization OTRANS ? Reinas de la Noche.

TAKE ACTION NOW! [3]

Read more about LGBT human rights in Guatemala [4]



Violence against trans women worldwide

The Trans Murder Monitoring Project of Transgender Europe (TGEU) [5] and "Liminalis - A Journal for Sex/Gender Emancipation and Resistance [6]" focuses on systematically reporting murdered trans people internationally. Preliminary results have shown that the highest rates of murder reports have come form Latin America, with eighty-two reported murders of trans people form Brazil, 20 from Venezuela, 11 from Colombia, 10 from Guatemala, 10 from Mexico, 5 from Honduras, 4 from Venezuela, 3 from Argentina and 3 from the Dominican Republic. In total 91 murders of trans people were reported in 11 Latin American countries in 2008, and 73 murders of trans people in 11 Latin American countries in the first six months of 2009. The reported murders of trans people in Latin America account for 75% and 88% of the world wide reported murders of trans people in 2008 and the first six months of 2009 respectively.

Trans women in Guatemala and all over the world experience grave violations of their human rights when they are attacked and killed with impunity, lacking protection from the government and facing severe discrimination when accessing the basic necessities such as health care, housing, and education.

International Law

Many international human rights declarations and treaties to which Guatemala is a party, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention Against Torture (CAT), the American Convention on Human Rights (American Convention), and the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture (IACPPT) ensure the rights to life and security, the right to be free from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to be free from discrimination, the right to equality before the law, and the right to freedom of expression.

The Yogyakarta Principles on the application of international human rights law in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity specify that, "everyone has the right to life. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life, including by reference to considerations of sexual orientation or gender identity" and that, "everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, has the right to security of the person and to protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual or group (Principle 4)."

Please send your letters to:

Mr. Alvaro Colom
President of Guatemala
email: webadmin@scspr.gob.gt [7]

Please also send a copy to:

Ms. María Eugenia de Sierra
Human Rights Associate
Procurator
Deputy Carlos Enrique Bautista Godínez
Human Rights Commission President of the Congress of Guatemalan Republic
email: cbautista@congreso.gob.gt [8]

Ms. Ruth del Valle
Presidential Commissioner on Human Rights
email: copredeh@copredeh.gob.gt [9]

Fernando D'Elio ? IGLHRC
email: fdelio@iglhrc.org [10]
email: communications+action.alert@iglhrc.org [11]

Johana Esmeralda Ramirez
OTRANS Reinas de la Noch
email: johanaemeraldaramirez@yahoo.com [12]

Sample Letters (english & spanish)

Honorable President of Guatemala
Mr. Alvaro Colom

Mr. President:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the reports of multiple murders of transgender women in Guatemala, including the three recent murders that occurred between October 26 and November 2, 2009. On October 26, 2009, Kenia Mayli was shot to death in the center of Guatemala City. Her body showed signs that she was tortured by being hit by a car around her head and shoulders before she was shot. Then, on October 31, Jessica Andreina's body was found by other trans women colleagues, in the city of Puerto Barros, departament of Izabal, in the north of the country. She was also killed by gunfire. Shortly thereafter, on November 2, Sabrina Garcia Carjas was stoned to death. These tragic murders are three of the many brutal attacks committed against the trans community in Guatemala in the last decade and beyond.

I call on you to condemn these murders, secure justice for the victims, ensuring a full and fair investigation into these crimes, and to take positive measures to prevent such violence against the trans community in the future.

As a signatory to international human rights declarations and treaties that protect the right to life, the right to be free from discrimination and the right to equality, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic Social, and Cultural Rights, and the American Convention, it is Guatemala's obligation to ensure that human rights violations are fully investigated and perpetrators are brought to justice, regardless of the sexual orientation or gender identity of the victims.

Moreover, the Yogyakarta Principles on the application of international human rights law in

relation to sexual orientation and gender identity specify that, "everyone has the right to life. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life, including by reference to considerations of sexual orientation or gender identity" and that, "everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, has the right to security of the person and to protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual or group." States should also, "adopt appropriate legislative and other measures to prohibit and eliminate discrimination in the public and private spheres on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity" (Principles 4 and 5).

I ask that you publicly condemn the murders of transgender women in Guatemala; ensure that local authorities make a full investigation into these crimes to find and convict the perpetrators; closely monitor the situation in the neighborhoods where such attacks are occurring and ensure that similar crimes against the transgender community are not repeated in the future; develop new legislation, such as a law that protects people from discrimination on the basis of their gender identity or expression; and promote the human rights of all citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

I trust that you will give this issue the attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

Name:
Organization:
Country:

Presidente de Guatemala

Sr. Alvaro Colom

Señor Presidente,

Le escribo para expresar mi profunda preocupación acerca de los reportes de los sistemáticos asesinatos a mujeres trans en Guatemala. Los crímenes de Kenya Mayl, Jessica Andreina y Sabrina Garcia Cajas ocurridos entre el 23 de octubre y el 2 de noviembre son solo un ejemplo de los tantos asesinatos cometidos contra la comunidad trans en los últimos años.

Como signatario de diversos tratados y declaraciones internacionales, es la obligación de Guatemala de asegurar que las violaciones a los Derechos Humanos sean investigadas exhaustivamente y que los culpables sean llevados a la justicia. Esto debe suceder en todos los casos sin importar la orientación sexual o identidad de genero de las victimas.

Asimismo, los principios de Yogyakarta sobre la Aplicación del Derecho Internacional Humanitario en Relación con la Orientación Sexual y la Identidad de Género especifican que ?Toda persona tiene derecho a la vida. Ninguna persona podrá ser privada de la vida arbitrariamente por ningún motivo, incluyendo la referencia a consideraciones acerca de su orientación sexual o identidad de género? y "toda persona, con independencia de su orientación sexual o identidad de género, tiene derecho a la seguridad personal y a la

protección del Estado frente a todo acto de violencia o atentado contra la integridad personal que sea cometido por funcionarios públicos o por cualquier individuo, grupo o institución". y que los estados "adoptarán todas las medidas legislativas y de otra índole que resulten apropiadas para prohibir y eliminar la discriminación por motivos de orientación sexual e identidad de género en las esferas pública y privada" (Principios 4 y 5).

Les pedimos que condenen públicamente a los asesinos de mujeres trans en Guatemala, se aseguren que las autoridades locales efectúen una investigación exhaustiva sobre estos crímenes. También pedimos que vigilen la situación en el pais y ejecuten todas las acciones necesarias para procurar que estos hechos no se repitan en el futuro. Asimismo solicitamos al gobierno de Guatamala que impulse nueva legislacion, como la ley de identidad de genero, que promueva los Derechos Humanos como asi tambien que proteja a la diversidad sexual de discriminacion y violencia. Las autoridades de Guatemala deberían respetar y proteger los Derechos Humanos de todos los ciudadanos sin discriminación por orientación sexual e identidad de genero.

Confiamos en que se le dará a este tema la atención que se merece.

Cordialmente,

Nombre:

Organización:

País:

gender identity law lgbtqi murder oppression rights sex trans violence

I define my sex, gender & body. You define yours.

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Links:
[1] http://reinasdelanoche.org.gt/default.asp?iditem=1
[2] http://www.iglhrc.org/cgi-bin/iowa/article/takeaction/globalactionalerts/1021.html
[3] http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1870/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=1742
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