

ABGLT – Official Note of Condolence

Murder of Ugandan gay activist David Kato

The Brazilian Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Association – ABGLT publicly expresses its deep sadness and indignation, in unison with the international Human Rights movement, over the heinous murder of the Ugandan gay activist David Kato, bludgeoned to death with a hammer in his home on January 26th.

In October last year, with the headline “Hang them”, the Ugandan newspaper Rolling Stone published a list of the country’s 100 “top homosexuals”, including activist David Kato, with photographs, and even full names and addresses.

Kato was advocacy officer for the gay rights group Sexual Minorities Uganda and had stated having received death threats after the Rolling Stone published his photo – on the front page of the newspaper –, his name and address last year. Kato recently gave an interview to CNN:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGkuwuqYDfE>

Kato and two other people sued the newspaper and its managing editor, Giles Muhame, and on January 3rd this year the high court ruled that the newspaper had violated the constitutional rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people in Uganda. According to news reports at the time, in reaction to the court decision Muhame’s wall on Facebook stated that “the agents of the devil will be defeated”.

Several news sources have stated that Muhame has connections with fundamentalist Christian evangelical pastors working with MP David Bahati, responsible for the 2009 “anti-homosexual” bill, some of whom are also members of the National Coalition Against Homosexuality and Sexual Abuse in Uganda.

ABGLT urges the Brazilian Government, through its appropriate channels, to stress the need for Uganda to comply with the universal precepts of Human Rights and to formally request the Ugandan Government to ensure the case is investigated and that the guilty be brought to justice and that measures be taken to stop the institutional persecution and promote the protection of the Ugandan LGBT community.

ABGLT urges the religious fundamentalists who are disseminating hate in Uganda to reflect on their postures and to practice the principal commandment of the faith they profess, namely “Love thy neighbour as thyself”. Inciting hate against any human being, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, is not in keeping with this principle.

ABGLT recalls, congratulates and urges that the example of UN Secretary-General be followed. In December 2010, referring to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Ban Ki-moon said that there is no such thing as the “partial Declaration” or the “sometimes Declaration”, and stated that he would “speak out, at every opportunity, wherever I go ...to rally support for the decriminalization of homosexuality everywhere in the world.”

May David Kato live in our memory and give us even more strength to continue fighting for justice and equality in Brazil and throughout the world.

David Kato is with us!

Toni Reis
President - ABGLT