

ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBT PERSONS: SOME EXCERPTS FROM REPORTS TO THE 17th SESSION OF THE HRC

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions:

- During the past 18 months, 31 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons have been **murdered** in one country alone.
- On December 22, 2010, a 23 year old transgender person was reportedly **found dead in a ditch**. According to reports, her body was beaten and burned. Information received also indicates that the **blows to her face caused by stoning** have been so severe that her remains had been virtually unrecognizable. There were also indications that she had been **raped**.
- That same day, another transgender person was found at her home. According to reports, her **body had been incinerated** and showed **numerous stab wounds**. Neighbors reported that they saw two suspects running away from her home when the fire started.
- On January 2, 2011, another young transgender person had been found **murdered in the main street** of her town. According to information received, her body had stab wounds in the chest.

[A/HRC/17/28/Add.1 – Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, communications to and from governments, pages 114-117]

Death threats:

- LGBT activists had received numerous **death threats** in connection with their work, and especially following the publication of **an article entitled “Hang them”** in Rolling Stone, a local newspaper. The article provided names, addresses and photos of members and perceived members of the LGBT community, including on the front cover.

[A/HRC/17/28/Add.1 – Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, communications to and from governments, pages 390-391]

Violence against women:

- On 14 January 2011 a lesbian woman was allegedly **“strangled with a wire, tortured and raped for five hours** by [an acquaintance] who intended to **‘turn her straight’.**”
- A local community activist reached out to women who had been raped because of their sexual orientation through a small local charity in the township to rescue and support survivors of “corrective” rape. However, the same accused asked family and friends to attack the community worker, constantly harassed her and made **threats against her life and against her partner**. This forced her to go into hiding as well, which had **prevented her from carrying out the assistance work** she provided to other women victims of violence.

[A/HRC/17/26/Add.1 – Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, communications to and from governments, para.204-210]

- The Special Rapporteur expressed concerns during a country visit at accounts of widespread discrimination and violence, generally overlooked by the Government, “including **brutal gang rapes and family violence** owing to their sexual orientation or gender identity”.

- A specific case study is provided of a transgender person “brutally attacked and shot by a group of men when she was leaving a nightclub”, treated harshly and with disdain in hospital by health-care personnel because she was transgender and HIV-positive, detained in a male prison where she was placed in a cell with gang members and **raped more than 100 times**, and further attacked upon her release from jail.

[A/HRC/17/26/Add.2 – Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, follow-up mission to El Salvador, para. 29]

Imposition of the death penalty:

- A 17 year old was charged with sexual activity between males and **sentenced to death**. It is alleged that he was beaten, blackmailed and forced to confess.

[A/HRC/17/30/Add.1 – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, communications to and from governments, paras. 556-571]

Right to health:

- Two men were **arrested for alleged homosexuality** by officers of the 1st squadron of gendarmes, and are currently detained in prison. They were arrested after their houses were searched. They were **forced to undergo an anal examination**. It is also alleged that they were **handcuffed during medical examinations** and were not informed about their right to remain silent or to have recourse to legal assistance.

[A/HRC/17/25/add.1 – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, communications to and from Governments, para.70-71]

Arbitrary detention:

- On December 4, 2010, a human rights defender was **arbitrarily detained** by members of the judicial police, **handcuffed, blindfolded** and placed in a vehicle where he was insulted by an officer and **taunted with homophobic expressions**. According to information received, the agents **beat him repeatedly in the face, chest and back** while asking him about his work defending the rights of people living with HIV and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Later, he was **released under threat of being attacked again if any complaints were received** about the events.

[A/HRC/17/25/add.1 – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, communications to and from Governments, para.195-196]

- In cases of homosexual detainees, prison staff follow an **isolation procedure**, during which time these prisoners receive **psychological “treatment”** and are kept apart from the rest of the prison population for no reason besides their sexual orientation or gender identity.

[A/HRC/17/25/add.3 – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, mission to the Syrian Arab Republic, para.78]