
Tatiana Lozano confessed to have killed her son with multiple knife stabbings at home with the help of her husband, and that she buried the body in a sugar cane plantation.

GGB – Grupo Gay da Bahia
“The teenager Itaberli Lozano was assassinated by his own mother, Tatiana Lozano Pereira, in an ambush, because he was openly gay”, according to attorney Carolina Aram, member of the Sexual Diversity Commission of the Ordem dos Advogados do Brasil (OAB) – SP (Brazilian Bar Association, State of São Paulo Chapter). Itaberli was murdered on December of 2016 when he returned home. During her first deposition to the police the mother of the young man confessed to having killed her own son with multiple knife stabbings. “It is murder in the first degree, a homophobic hate crime”, said the lawyer.

Mãe armou emboscada para matar o filho por ele ser gay (Mother planned an ambush to kill her son because he was gay). Brasil 247 (SP 247). Retrieved from https://www.brasil247.com/pt/247/sp247/275440/M%C3%A3e-armou-emboscada-para-matar-o-filho-por-ele-ser-gay.htm

Acknowledgments:

Marcelo Cerqueira
Paulinho GSP
Leodvam A. Silva
Deco Ribeiro
Paul Beppler (English translation)
And all those who contributed collecting and sending us data from the field

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The Murder of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Transvestite (LGBT) Persons in Brazil:

Report 2016

A total of 343 LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Transvestite persons) we assassinated in Brazil in 2016. Never in the history of this country, not in the last 37 years since the Grupo Gay da Bahia (GGB) has been collecting and publishing data about such homicides, have so many deaths been recorded. Every 25 hours a LGBT individual is brutally assassinated, a victim of LGBT-phobia, reserving Brazil the title of world champion of crimes against sexual minorities. More homosexuals are killed here than in the 13 countries of the Middle East and Africa, where the death penalty for LGBTs can be found.

The number of such deaths keeps on growing frighteningly: from 130 homicides in the year 2000 to 260 in 2010 and then to 343 in 2016. During former president Fernando Henrique Cardoso’s administration (AKA. FHC), the median number LGBT deaths was 127 per year; during former Luiz Inácio da Silva’s presidency (AKA. Lula) there were 163; and under deposed president Dilma Rousseff & the current president Michel Temer’s government, 325.

According to anthropologist Luiz Mott, responsible for the website Quem a homofobia matou hoje (Who has homophobia killed today?), such alarming numbers are only the tip of an iceberg of violence and blood and since there are no governmental statistics about these hate crimes, these numbers are always undercounted, especially taking into account that our data bank is based on cases appearing in the print media, published on the internet and received directly from individual reports. The lack of official statistics, differently than how such things are done in the United States, is by itself proof of incompetence and institutionalized homophobia; besides, at one point former president Rousseff promised to push through a bill of law aiming specifically at the criminalizing homophobia, legally making it comparable to the existent crime of racism, yet eventually she had the project permanently archived.

2016 was marked by two homicides which greatly upset the country. The first incident happened on Christmas Day, in the subway of São Paulo, when a street vendor named Luiz Carlos Ruas was beaten to death because he tried to intervene and help when a gay man and a transvestite were running away from two martial arts fighters -- the aggressors then turned on him. The second case was that of a teenager named Itaberli Lozano, seventeen years old. He was beaten, stabbed and then burned, as ordered by his evangelical mother.

Other cases of LGBT-phobia in 2016 which also caused shockwaves throughout the land because of the excess of cruelty applied onto the victims are as follows: university professor Elessandro Milan, 34 years old, was killed in Porto Velho, Rondônia. He was first choked to death and then his body was cut into pieces. Wagner Pereira, a merchant of Belém, Pará, was killed with 80 knife stabblings. In
Santa Luz, Bahia, two teachers were found carbonized in the trunk of a car. In Castanhal, Pará, transvestite Brenda was first beaten up and then pushed down to her death from a high overpass. In the state of Rio Grande do Sul a young transsexual man, 17 years old, was executed with 17 gun shots then dragged by a car through the streets of Porto Alegre, the capital.

Firearms were utilized in 31% of these homicides, cold weapons in 27%; there was one electrocution; and there were cases of death by clubbing and stoning. Many of the victims suffered extreme and unusual cruelty, before death and even after death: torture, intentional carbonization of the body.

Transvestites generally are killed on the streets by gun shots or being beaten to death. Gays normally are killed at home, with domestic objects, such as kitchen knives, electrical cords, suffocated in bed, often found by the neighbors because of the strong odor when the body is in advanced state of decomposition.

Of the 343 homicides total, 173 were gays (50%), 144 (42%) trans (i.e. transvestites and or transsexuals), 10 lesbians (3%), 4 bisexuals (1%); in addition there were 12 heterosexual victims, lovers of transsexual women (known as T-lovers). Also, there were relatives or acquaintances of LGBT persons killed because of close their close association with or believed to be themselves LGBT, such as the street vendor who got killed in the São Paulo subway station at Christmas. Proportionally, transvestites and transsexuals are the most victimized segment: the risk of a trans person to be assassinated is 14 times higher than a gay man. When compared with the United States, the 144 Brazilian trans killed in 2016 vis-à-vis their 21 American counterparts, the Brazilians have a nine times higher chance of suffering a violent death. According to international agencies, more than half of the homicides of trans individuals throughout the world occur in Brazil.

There were 14 victims not properly identified because they could have been either transsexual men or masculine lesbians -- neither the newspaper articles reporting their deaths nor their photographs are useful to bring clarity to this question. Even though we asked for help in this matter from the leadership of the community of transsexual men, we have not obtain any response. More than half of these in life possibly identified as transsexual men died from gun shots.

**REGIONAL PROFILE**

The median of LGBT homicides in Brazil is of 1.69 per million inhabitants, more than half occurring in the Northern region with 3.02 per million. The Northeast which in the last decades had the highest number of LGBT homicides, now registers 1.94 deaths per million; on the other hand, the least violent regions are the South and the Southeast with 1.24 and 1.19 respectively.
The States where the highest number of LGBT assassinations occurred in absolute terms were the state of São Paulo with 49 homicides, Bahia with 32, the state of Rio de Janeiro with 30, and the state of Amazonas with 28. Roraima did not register any LGBT homicides, although in 2014 it had the highest number with 6.14 LGBT killings per one million inhabitants. “In reality, one of the characteristics of these hate crimes is in fact their constant fluctuation and unpredictability”, explains Eduardo Michels, systems analyst and data manager for this project. Adding further that “In any particular state, it might be that in one year more trans individuals will die, the next homosexuals, and the year after that the situation may reverse itself back again. Unfortunately, the recurring prediction is that this year more than 300 LGBT persons will be assassinated.”

However, if we compare these numbers with our total population, LGBT individuals run greater risk of being killed in the state of Acre with 7.9 deaths per million and Amazonas with 7.23 – when the national median is 1.69. Due to continual confrontation between rival gangs in the prison system in the state of Amazonas, many violent killings are occurring, presenting a very worrisome situation: with a total population of less than 4 million inhabitants, Amazonas had almost double the number of homicides than Paraná and Rio Grande do Sul, the latter a state with a population three times larger than Amazonas.

Manaus, Amazonas, with 25 deaths, was the capital registering the highest number of deaths in absolute terms, followed by Salvador, Bahia, with 17, and São Paulo, SP, with 13. LGBT homicides were documented in 168 Brazilian municipalities in 2016, although most of these hate crimes occur in larger urban centers and peripheral districts to metropolitan areas, there were cases of LGBT homicides in predominantly rural municipalities with less than 14 thousand inhabitants, like Piringuinho, Minas Gerais state, and Bom Lugar, Maranhão.

We did not document any LGBT deaths in three Brazilian capitals this year: São Luís, Maranhão; Boa Vista, Roraima; and Vitória, Espírito Santo. In proportion to the total population, the capital city of Palmas, Tocantins, was the most violent: with 266,000 inhabitants, the risk of a LGBT individual to be assassinated is 15.07 per million, followed by Manaus, Amazonas, with 12.37 – the national median being 1.69.

The greater the Human Development Index (HDI), it is often presumed, the less frequent the occurrence of violence. The more developed South and the Southeast typically are the regions of the country with the lowest number of homophobic crimes committed (for example this year: 1.19 per million in the Southeast in comparison to 3.09 in the North). However, in the extreme North of Brazil, in the state of Roraima no deaths were documented this year (probably a lapse in documenting and reporting cases from the part of state institutions responsible for public safety).

The most dramatic increase in the violence against LGBT persons has been developing in the state of Amazonas. From seven homicides in 2014 it jumped to 25 in 2015, and to 28 in 2016. The capital city of Manaus with less than two million inhabitants had 25 deaths in 2016, almost double the number of killings documented in São Paulo, a city with a population of 12 million and 13 documented homicides.
PROFILE OF THE VICTIMS

Anti-LGBT violence touches all skin colors, ages, social classes and professions. The youngest victim was 10 years old, sexually violated and beaten to death in Curuá, Pará; there was also Luana Biersack, a 14 year old transsexual, found dead next to a lake in Novo Itacolomi, in the North of the state of Paraná. According to the chief of police, the crime was committed by four adolescents because of homophobia. The investigations indicate that there were no reasons to kill the victim, other than being motivated by prejudice and intolerance. After consensual sexual intercourse with the suspects, she was kicked and punched, then drowned. The oldest victim was a retired gentleman, 71 years of age, from Araruna, state of Paraiba; he was found dead in his home, gagged and with his hands and feet tied up, showing signs of physical abuse; he also had been robbed.

Predominant are the deaths of LGBT individuals between 19 and 30 years of age (32%), therefore people at the prime of their lives. Victims under 18 years of age make up 20.6%, a clear indication of early homoerotic initiation and the great vulnerability our youth are exposed to; above all young transsexual and transvestite sex workers. At the other end of the spectrum, 7.2% of the victims were elderly.

As far as the skin color of the LGBTs assassinated, 64% were white, 36% black, a pattern which does not follow the predominant Brazilian demographic profile. The majority of transvestites and transsexuals are sex workers born into a life of lower socioeconomic status; following the general pattern of LGBT victims, 60% of them are white and 40% brown and black. Of the total LGBT homicides in 2016, 9% were identified as black.

Unfortunately, police reports regarding crimes against sexual minorities tend to be lacking when it comes to specifying the demographic profile of the victims, making their characterization all the more difficult. However, among the dead, 73 professions/occupations were identified, predominating teachers (17%) and students (16%), followed by a smaller number of merchants, catholic priests, entrepreneurs, nurses, etc. Inexplicably, the number of deaths of sex workers and hair dressers plummeted significantly in 2016, both very vulnerable categories in prior years.

IMPUNITY

Crimes against sexual minorities usually are committed at night or very early morning, before day break. They occur in desolate places or inside the home, making it very difficult to identify the
perpetrators. When there are witnesses, often they refuse to make a deposition because of prejudice against LGBT persons. Police officers, deputies and judges often show their homotransphobia by refusing without any justification to recognize the homophobic connotations in these crimes.

Only in 17% of these homicides was the criminal identified (60 out of 343); and less than 10% of those actually had proceedings started and resulted in punishment. Impunity is an invitation for new attacks.

Among the 60 anti-LGBT criminals, unfortunately, practically half had previous close contact with the victims, albeit as their companion at the time (27%), ex-lover (7%), and relative of the victim (13%). Clients, sex workers, and unknown persons practicing casual sex were responsible for 47% of these crimes.

CONTROVERSIAL DEATHS

Are all these 343 anti-LGBT assassinations hate crimes? Anthropologist Luiz Mott affirms categorically that “99% of these homicides against LGBTs have as their motive, either individual LGBT-phobia (when the assassin has not accepted his own suppressed sexuality), or generalized cultural homotransfobia (which is responsible for the expulsion of transvestites to the margins of society where violence is endemic), institutional homophobia (when government representatives don’t offer security at common places frequented by the LGBT population and neither approve laws criminalizing LGBT-phobia). Even when a trans is involved in illicit activities – i.e. drugs, petty theft – their “condition as fags” only makes the hate and the violence to be much more pronounced when they are being victimized. In Brazil, from North to South, one hears the saying “Fags better die!” (“Viado tem mais é que morrer”) -- and so many fathers and mothers repeat like Brazilian federal representative Jair Bolsonaro: “I prefer a dead son than a homosexual son!” (“Prefiro um filho morto do que homossexual!”). The recent alteration of the Brazilian Penal Code known as the Feminicide Law (Lei do Feminicídio, nº 13.104) discriminated when it left transsexual women out of its new legal protections.

The president of the Grupo Gay da Bahia, historian Marcelo Cerqueira, adds the following: “When the Black Movement or feminists publish their statistics, it is not questioned if the motive behind the killing was racism or misogyny, why then demand of the LGBT Movement some sort of certification of ideological hate when computing hate crimes in the LGBT community? Just by being a transvestite, a lesbian or a gay man a person already finds him/herself at much greater risk under the machismo intolerance which dominates our country.”

These statistics also include the suicide of 26 LGBT persons, 21 of them were gay, three were lesbians and two were trans. São Paulo taking the lead with eight documented occurrences; the states of Minas Gerais, Mato Grosso do Sul, and Bahia each had three cases, the ages varying from 17 to 61, six of between 20 and 26 years old. The majority killed themselves by ingesting prescription drugs, by
jumping from viaducts or from tall buildings as the final solution to escape a life of hell, the result of prejudice and discrimination.

According systems analyst Eduardo Michels, data manager for this project in Rio de Janeiro, “The underrepresentation of these crimes is notorious, indicating that the numbers we have are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to all the violence and blood that actually exists, since our data bank is built based on newspaper clippings and internet contacts. Unfortunately we rarely get any information from the more than 300 nonprofit LGBT organizations in Brazil. And the Secretaria Nacional de Direitos Humanos (National Human Rights Secretariat) and the Disk 100 project have proven time and again their incompetence in documenting lethal violence against the Brazilian LGBT population. The numbers we present here certainly must fall way under real daily life situations. Especially in the last few years when more and more family members of victims, when police administrators and police officers with bias and prejudice have been disregarding the presence of homophobia in many of these anti-LGBT homicides”.

Professor Luiz Mott concludes leaving us the following warning: “This New Year starts even more homophobic than before. As of January 2017, the last 22 days, 23 LGBT persons already were assassinated – more than one a day!”

P.S.: Since the closure of the Report on January 2016, three more cases were reported in Roraima and one more in Rio de Janeiro, bringing the 2016 total to 347 deaths.

GGB – Year 37

The oldest LGBT Brazilian association fighting for democratic freedoms, human rights and social justice
IDENTIFICAÇÃO DOS 343 LGBT ASSASSINADOS

http://homofobiamata.wordpress.com/
VÍTIMAS POR SEGMENTO LGBT

2016

- Gay: 172 (50%)
- Trans*: 144 (42%)
- Lésbica: 10 (3%)
- Bissexual: 10 (4%)
- Hétero: 0 (0%)
- T-Lover: 4 (1%)

TOTAL 2016: 343
ASSASSINATO DE LGBT NO BRASIL, 2016

EXTERIOR = 6
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