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Murder of LGBT people in Brazil: The 2014 Report

by Grupo Gay da Bahia (GGB), a longstanding Brazilian LGBT human rights advocate group.

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Grupo Gay da Bahia (GGB) discloses the 2014 edition of its annual report of the murders of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgender and Transvestite persons in Brazil (titled in Portuguese: "Relatório Anual de Assassinatos de Homossexuais no Brasil"). There were 326 deaths of LGBT persons reported in Brazil last year, including nine suicides. A murder has occurred every 27 hours. This is an increase of 4.1% from the previous year of 2013 when 313 cases were reported.

Brazil remains the world champion of crimes motivated by homophobia and/or transphobia. According to international agencies, 50% of transgender murders last year were committed in Brazil. Of the 326 dead, 163 were gay, 134 transvestites, 14 lesbian, 3 bisexual and 7 were persons specifically known as t-lovers or transvestite-lovers. There also were 7 murders of heterosexuals, straight men who were mistaken to be gay or because they found themselves in homoerotic circumstances and/or homoerotic spaces.

In absolute numbers, the states where more LGBT persons were murdered are São Paulo (50) and Minas Gerais (30). However, in relative terms the states of Paraíba and Piauí and their respective capitals represent the highest risk level to be violently killed as an LGBT individual. In Brazil as a whole, LGBT persons murdered represent 1.6 per one million inhabitants. However, in Paraíba that same risk is 4.5 and in Piauí 4.1. This is noticeably higher than the national baseline. For decades, the Northeast of Brazil has had the highest incidence of homophobic crimes. However, for the first time in 2014 the Midwest emerged as the most intolerant geographical region with 2.9 homicides per one million inhabitants. Followed by the Northeast (2.1), the North (1.5), the Southeast (1.2) and the South – which is the least violent region of all with 0.7 deaths. São Paulo and Goiás were the states experiencing the greatest increase in this type of crime, respectively from 29 to 50 and from 10 to 21. While Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Sul saw their numbers decrease. In the Central-West region, Mato Grosso do Sul was the most violent state (with its 3.8 million inhabitants) and the Federal District registered proportionally a smaller number of assassinations (1.0).

The Southeast and North are below the national average in the number of deaths. In the Northeast, the state of Paraíba is most dangerous, followed by Piauí and Sergipe with Ceará and Bahia registering lower numbers of homicides. In the North, Acre is the most violent, as opposed to Pará which is less dangerous. In the four southeastern states the numbers changed little, from 1.8 to 1.1. The state of Espírito Santo being the most dangerous and São Paulo offering the lowest level of risk. In the South as a whole, the risk is less than one per one million – the state of Rio Grande do Sul showing to be the most peaceful of all at 0.4, with 5 deaths for a total state population of over 11
million. While in the state of Paraná which basically has the same population as Rio Grande do Sul had twice as many murders (11).

As for capitals, in absolute terms, São Paulo is the metro area where more murders occurred: 16. No assassination was recorded in Macapá; only one in Porto Alegre, Aracaju, Curitiba and Boa Vista. João Pessoa is the most dangerous capital of all with 15.3 victims per one million inhabitants. It is followed by 11.9 in Teresina, and 10.4 in Cuiabá. Inexplicably, the city of Nova Iguaçu, in the state of Paraná, had 4 murders per 800,000 inhabitants, exceeding the twelve most populous capitals which registered one death each.

According to Professor Luiz Mott, Grupo Gay da Bahia’s founder and the coordinator of this research project for more than three decades, "crimes against LGBT challenge sociological views due to their unpredictability. There are states where in one year more gays are killed and in the next more transvestites are assassinated. In January of 2014, a total of 45 LGBT persons were murdered while that number fell to 17 in February, giving us an average of 27 deaths for each month. Such oscillations cannot be interpreted scientifically. In previous years the use of ‘armas brancas’ (i.e. knives and similar weapons) had always been used in execution of these homicides. However, this year the use of firearms was predominant. No one can explain such annual fluctuations."

For the database coordinator of this research, systems analyst Eduardo Michels of Rio de Janeiro, "the underreporting of these crimes is evident, indicating that those numbers represent only the tip of an iceberg of bloody violence, since our databank is based on articles published in newspapers and over the internet. Unfortunately, this type of information is seldom provided by the more than 300 active Brazilian LGBT non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The real numbers of deaths of LGBT people in the country must certainly exceed the estimates herewith provided; this is especially true in more recent years since police officers and police inspectors have been increasingly and blatantly ruling out the possibility of homophobia being a factor in many of these killings of homosexuals."

Mott adds: "Regrettably, anti-gay violence grows uncontrollably in Brazil. In the 8 years of president Fernando Henrique Cardoso's (FHC's) government, 1023 homophobic crimes were documented, an average of 127 per year. During the Lula administration this number rose to 1306, an average of 163 murders per year. In just four years of the Dilma Rousseff government these crimes reached 1243, an average of 310 murders annually - almost doubling the numbers of the two previous governments. Hence the extreme urgency that president Dilma Rousseff step up and fulfill her campaign promise to have homophobia criminalized!"

Description of the victims: Of the 326 dead, 163 were gay (50%), 134 transvestites (41%), 14 lesbians (4%), bisexual 3 (0.9%) and 7 (2%) transvestites-lovers (t-lovers). As far as age, 28% of the LGBT victims were under 18; and 68% were killed in the prime of their lives, between 20-60 years of age.

The racial composition, despite missing information on 30% of the victims are as follows: 54% white, 41% of mixed race and 5% black.

Murdered LGBT persons exercised 20 different professions, confirming the presence of the "love that dare not speak its name" in all occupations and social strata. There was a predominance of transvestites active as sex workers, 37 victims (12%). Followed by 13 teachers, and 8 students. There were 6 hairdressers killed. Amongst the victims there were civil servants, merchants, retirees, a catholic priest, and a "pai de santo" (a traditional Afro-Brazilian religion priest).

As far as the instruments used to cause these deaths, there has been a slight change from what was observed in previous decades, when mostly "armas brancas" (i.e. knives, etc.) were used, 107 LGBT persons were killed in 2014 by firearms, 105 with knives, box cutters, scissors, etc., 49 by beating, clubbing and stoning, 24 by hanging and suffocation. There has also been cases of poisoning, charring, intentional hit and run. The extreme violence used in these executions confirms what victimology specifically names hate crimes, since they are marked by the exceptional use of cruelty. In many cases torture was applied prior to carrying out the killings a variety of
instruments used. There was a high number of shots or blows applied: for example, deadly bullet shots ranged from 1 to 15. Eleven victims received more than 10 body punctures which were produced with knives. Three had over 20 such bodily incisions. One gay man who was killed received 46 stab wounds. Shocking photographs and detailed descriptions of these cruel murders are found here (in Portuguese): http://homofobiamata.wordpress.com/.

The predominant pattern observed is the gay man murdered inside his residence with knives and / or similar household items while transvestites and transsexuals are usually killed on the streets by gunshots.

The qualification of homophobic crimes: Were all these 326 murders homophobic crimes? Prof. Luiz Mott is categorical: "Yes! 99% of these homicides against the LGBT community have homophobia as the main aggravating effect. Either it is provoked by individual internalized homophobia - where the killer has not worked out his own sexuality and resorts to atoning with blood his own repressed homosexual desires or it is caused by cultural homophobia, when the practice of bullying against lesbians and gays and transvestites drives these individuals out to the margins of society where violence is endemic. And finally, it results from institutional homophobia: For example, when the government does not provide for safety in settings frequented by members of the LGBT community or when the government does as did president Rousseff, vetoing a anti-homophobia school kit which was to help more than 6 million young people to understand the human rights of homosexuals; and more recently, when president Rousseff pressed senators not to approve the proposed bill of law PLLC 122 which would have added homophobia to Brazil's already existent crime of racism law."

Marcelo Cerqueira, president of the Grupo Gay da Bahia, questions why "when the Black Movement, the Indian and the Feminist communities disclose their lethal statistics there is no question as to what is driving force behind those deaths - that it is racism, that it is sexism. And so why it then that only the LGBT community has to show proof of homophobia in these cases of heinous crimes? To be a transvestite in itself constitutes an aggravating danger in the face of the dominant macho culture of intolerance in our society. Even when a gay man is killed in cases of domestic violence or robbery, that person is a victim of the same cultural machismo that gets women beat up and gets them to lose their lives at the hands of their companions - as the saying here goes, 'faggots are women, they should die!'"

Here in this website http://homofobiamata.wordpress.com/ Grupo Gay da Bahia provides a complete database of all newspaper articles, videos, tables and graphs on all these 326 LGBT murders in 2014. They also provide a manual titled "Gay vivo não dorme com o inimigo" (A smart gay person does not sleep with the enemy) as a strategy to eradicate these bloody killings of homosexuals.

Solution against homophobic crimes: For the anthropologist and dean of the Brazilian LGBT Movement, Luiz Mott, "there are four emergency solutions to be implemented for the eradication of homophobic crimes: Sexual education, to teach young people and the population in general respect for human rights of homosexuals. Approval of affirmative laws granting full citizenship of LGBT people, equating homophobia and transphobia to the Brazilian crime of racism. Require the police and justice system to investigate and prosecute according to the full extent of law, in the case of homo / transphobic crimes. Finally, that gays, lesbians and trans people themselves avoid risky situations. For example by not taking any strangers to their homes and by always specifying and agreeing before hand all the details of any sexual encounters. The certainty of impunity together with stereotypical notions that gays are weak and defenseless do stimulate murderers to act."

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http://homofobiamata.wordpress.com/
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PERFIL DAS VÍTIMAS

VÍTIMAS POR SEGMENTO LGBT
2014

VÍTIMAS POR SEGMENTO LGBT
2012 vs 2013 vs 2014

TOTAL 2014:
DISTRIBUIÇÃO GEOGRÁFICA

Diferença de vítimas por Estado 2014-2013

VÍTIMAS POR REGIÃO GEOGRÁFICA

VÍTIMAS DA REGIÃO CENTRO-OESTE

VÍTIMAS DA REGIÃO NORTE
MUNICÍPIOS

Tabela Geral de Homocídios 2014

https://homofobiamata.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/tabela-geral-de-homicidios-2014.pdf