



FOR LESBIAN, GAY,  
BISEXUAL AND  
TRANSGENDER  
HUMAN RIGHTS

FALL: 2004

## WHAT HAPPENED TO “ONE LOVE”?

### PREJUDICE AND HOMOPHOBIC VIOLENCE IN JAMAICA

*In May 2004, Amnesty International issued a report documenting a serious pattern of homophobic violence in Jamaica. The violence ranges from vigilante attacks to torture and ill-treatment by police. And there appears to be little or no accountability for these human rights abuses. Exhortations to kill and maim lesbian and gay people can even be found in the lyrics of a number of popular Jamaican dancehall artists, such as Bounty Killer, Beenie Man, Buju Banton—a radical departure from Reggae’s musical tradition of preaching “one love” and social justice. Amnesty has called on the Jamaican government to institute law reform and other steps to protect the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Jamaicans from discrimination and violence.*

*The brutal murder in June of Brian Williamson, prominent gay activist and a founding member of J-FLAG (Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals & Gays), and the recent campaign by some LGBT activists calling for the boycott of those Jamaican Reggae stars spouting hate lyrics ignited intense public debate and media interest.*

*In this issue, we talk to the program manager of J-FLAG about the situation for the LGBT community in Jamaica, and what he thinks can be done to address discrimination and violence against LGBT people. We are withholding the name of our interviewee to honor his request to remain anonymous due to fear for his own safety.*

**OUTfront:** Give us a sense of the conditions of LGBT rights in Jamaica.

**J-FLAG:** Jamaican society in general is currently facing some serious problems including a breakdown of law and order and increasing violence. The country’s annual murder rate has exceeded 1,000 for the last several years for a population of only 2.6 million. Gay people, as one of the most stigmatized groups in our society, have always been discriminated against and are often targeted. J-FLAG regularly receives reports from the LGBT community of incidents of harassment, beatings, stonings, stabbings and even murder in some cases. These crimes usually go unreported as the victims fear further exposure and abuse from unsympathetic police. In July, we received eyewitness reports of an attack in Montego Bay, instigated by police officers, in which a young gay man was beaten to death by a mob after he was accused of looking at another man.

**OUTfront:** What role does religion play in all of this?

**J-FLAG:** Religion is an extremely powerful force in Jamaican society. We are noted for having more churches per square mile than any

other country in the world. The Christian Church played a significant role in the emancipation struggle and for a long time post-slavery was the main provider of education for the vast majority of Jamaicans who were denied access to the small and elitist education system. Christianity, often the Old Testament fundamentalist variety, is therefore deeply rooted in our culture, and denunciations of homosexuality are stock material in sermons up and down the country. In recent years the Rastafarian religion, which promotes a return to more natural living, has seen a growth in popularity. One denomination in particular, the Bobo Shanti, often takes a literal interpretation of the Bible. I don’t wish to dismiss or demonize any religion or belief system as they are more complex than just a single issue such as homosexuality, however it is important to highlight the tremendous influence that these religions have on people’s thinking and the way in which many people justify their bigotry with religion. Singers such as Capleton, Sizzla and Buju Banton often defend their homophobic lyrics which include incitements to violence against LGBT people, by using their religious teachings as a justification.

J-FLAG: CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## *“Battybwoys affi dead”: Action against homophobia in Jamaica*

**ACT NOW** to protect the human rights of LGBT people in Jamaica. Call for a debate on the repeal of sodomy laws, and for law reform to protect LGBT people from violence and discrimination.

### **BACKGROUND**

In January 2004, around 30,000 people attended a huge stage show and Rastafarian celebration, Rebel Salute, in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. Some of Jamaica’s most celebrated artists were present. Throughout the night, Capleton, Sizzla and other groups sang almost exclusively about gay men. Using the derogatory terms for gay men - “chi chi men” or “battybwoys” they urged the audience to “kill dem, battybwoys haffi dead, gun shots pon dem. . . who want to see dem dead put up his hand” (kill them, gay men have got to die, gun shots in their head, whoever wants to see them dead, put up your hand). Elephant Man, Bounty Killer, Beenie Man, TOK, and Capleton are among the stars who have written lyrics variously urging the shooting, burning, rape, stoning and drowning of gay people. The exhortations to kill and maim seem to know no bounds.

The problem of homophobia in Jamaica goes far beyond any single artist however. Reports that Amnesty International (AI) has received range from vigilante action by members of the community to ill-treatment or torture by the police. Gay men and women have been beaten, cut, burned, raped and shot on account of their sexuality. Once a person’s homosexuality becomes known to family or community, they are frequently at risk. Amnesty International has interviewed many people who have been forced to leave their areas after being publicly vilified, threatened or attacked on suspicion of being gay. They face homelessness, isolation or worse. AI believes that these reports are just the tip of the iceberg. Many gay men and women in Jamaica are too afraid to speak about their experiences to human rights organizations or to the authorities.

### **HOMOPHOBIC VIOLENCE AND CLIMATE OF FEAR**

One man described to J-FLAG (Jamaica’s only lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organization) how six men from an infamous “garrison community” (poor, inner-city communities dominated by either of Jamaica’s two main political parties) blocked a road to beat a local gay man.

“The crowd stood around watching, chanting “battyman, battyman, battyman” before gathering around him as he lay on the sidewalk. The crowd beat, punched and kicked him. They threw water from the gutter and garbage on him, all the while shouting “battyman, battyman.” Then they dragged him down the road for half a kilometer. They shouted “battyman fi’ dead.” As I stood across the street I realized there was nothing I could do to help him. Some mothers were actually in tears at what they were witnessing but there was nothing that they could do either. . . . The crowd was saying “Give him to us! Let us kill him! He’s a battyman!”

### **POLICE MISCONDUCT AND ABUSE**

Police often deny protection and in many cases appear to tacitly or actively support such violence. AI has received many reports of police failing to investigate homophobic-hate crimes. In some cases they fail even to take written or verbal reports of incidents.

In many instances, the police have reportedly tortured or ill-treated LGBT victims seeking their assistance. AI has also received reports of police arresting and detaining men overnight whom they suspect of being gay, or charging them with offences such as loitering.

### **VIOLENCE AGAINST LESBIANS**

Although lesbianism is not a criminal offence under Jamaican law, gay men are not the only targets of this kind of violence in Jamaica. Amnesty International has received reports of acts of violence against lesbians, including rape and other forms of sexual violence. There are reports of lesbians being singled out for attack on the grounds of “man-nish” physical appearance or other visible manifestations of sexuality.

### **LAWS AGAINST HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT**

Against this backdrop of high levels of violent crime - including murder - tacitly accepted by the police, are laws that continue to criminalize consensual gay sex between males. Article 76 of the Jamaican Offences against the Person Act punishes the “abominable crime of buggery” by up to ten years’ imprisonment with hard labor. Article 79 of the same act punishes any act of physical intimacy between men in public or private by a term of imprisonment of up to two years and the possibility of hard labor.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

As a first step towards changing the horrific violence and discrimination that so many LGBT people in Jamaica have to endure, Amnesty International wants laws criminalizing consensual sexual conduct between adults of the same sex abolished. Other laws must be introduced and enforced to protect gay men and lesbians from abuse.

Please send letters or postcards to the Prime Minister of Jamaica:

- Call for a debate on the repeal of legislation criminalizing consensual same sex conduct
- Urge law reform & other steps to protect LGBT individuals from violence & discrimination
- Urge the Prime Minister to publicly state that violence & abuse against LBGT people will not be tolerated

#### **ADDRESS**

**The Right Honorable P.J. Patterson**  
Prime Minister of Jamaica  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Jamaica House  
1 Devon Road  
Kingston 6  
JAMAICA



## INDIA: COURTS REFUSE APPEAL TO DISMISS SODOMY LAW

India's Delhi High Court has turned down a petition that sought the legalization of sodomy. The court's ruling came after the Naz Foundation, which specializes in protecting the rights of people with HIV/AIDS, filed a suit claiming that police use the law to harass gays.

The court agreed with government lawyers who argued against the legalization of gay sex and ruled that the sodomy law could only be legally challenged by people who have been prosecuted under it.

*Sources: 365Gay.com, Sept. 6; Rex Wockner, Sept. 6.*

## CHILE: LESBIAN JUDGE DENIED CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

Chile's Supreme Court denied Karen Atala custody of her three daughters on grounds that she is a lesbian. Atala, a judge from Los Andes, had been previously awarded custody by an appeal court. That decision was contested by her ex-husband, who claimed that the court was putting Atala's civil rights before those of her children.

The Supreme Court agreed with him in a 3-2 decision, claiming that the replacement of a father figure with another woman could ultimately damage the children's emotional and sexual development as well as introduce the girls to a lifetime of discrimination and isolation that comes with having a lesbian mother.

No further appeals are possible.

*Sources: Aberdeennews.com, Jul. 1; Rex Wockner, June 14.*

## SOUTH AFRICA: DRAG CONTROVERSY IN A TIME OF CELEBRATION

Under tremendous pressure from the conservative organization Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Johannesburg police announced that they were going to arrest anyone in drag at this year's Gay Pride parade under the statute in the Regulation of Gatherings Act, which states, "No person shall at any gathering or demonstration wear a disguise or mask or any other apparel or item which obscured his facial features and prevents his identification."

After denouncements of homophobia from LGBT rights groups, the police reversed their original course of action. Chief Superintendent Wayne Minnaar defended their former decision, saying that the law was being enforced only to be consistent, since they had already implemented the law to prevent anti-apartheid groups from using masks to hide their true identities.

David Baxter, spokesperson for the conservative Gay and Lesbian Alliance, said that his organization would immediately lay charges when the first drag queens began to march, and make sure that they were arrested. "We are totally against such parades," Baxter claimed, "because they are unlawful and harm the image of lesbians and gays. They incorrectly imply that being gay and lesbian means jumping into the clothing of the opposite sex."

Minnaar doubts that any arrests will be made on the charge of dressing in drag.

*Sources: 365gay.com, Sept. 17, 20, 21.*

## TANZANIA: ZANZIBAR ISLAND CRIMINALIZES GAY SEX

A new law on the island of Zanzibar off the coast of Tanzania outlaws gay sex. While Tanzania already criminalizes homosexual acts, the law is rarely enforced. Deputy Attorney General Omar Makungu stated that the number of gays and lesbians on Zanzibar, a key tourist destination along the East African Coast, is on the rise, and the bill was passed to stop the practice from becoming an accepted part of the island's culture.

The bill states that men who engage in homosexual acts are subject to 25 years imprisonment, while sex between women is punishable by seven years in prison. It was signed in mid-August.

*Sources: Rex Wockner, Aug. 30; BBC News, March 23.*

## PORTUGAL: CONSTITUTIONAL BAN ON DISCRIMINATION

On July 24, 2004, Portugal became the first country in Europe and the fourth in the world (after Ecuador, Fiji and South Africa) to have a Constitutional ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation.

*Sources: 365gay.com, July 24; www.ILGA.org*

J-FLAG: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## OUTfront: What about political leaders? Have they spoken out against homophobia and homophobic violence?

**J-FLAG:** On the contrary, there has been a loud silence from politicians of both parties. Not only that, both parties have stated that under their leadership there would be no revision of the sodomy law. In the past, both parties have played on popular homophobia in their political campaigning by adopting, in the case of the JLP [Jamaica Labor Party], the Chi Chi Man song by TOK as a campaign anthem, and in the case of the PNP [People's National Party], the slogan "Log on" which at the time was the title of the "in" song by Elephant Man which encourages people to "Step pon chi chi man", as if crushing a roach. Despite recommendations from the international community and from within our own Ministry of Health that repeal of the sodomy law is essential to reducing stigma which is helping to fuel the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the government refuses to budge on this issue.

## OUTfront: Tell us more about Jamaican law, in particular Jamaica's sodomy statute?

**J-FLAG:** The sodomy law is a Victorian relic of the British colonial penal code which has remained on our legal books, even though it has since been repealed in Britain and many other countries which also inherited the same colonial penal code. In Jamaica, you can get up to 10 years imprisonment if you are convicted of sodomy. There are other sections of the Offenses against the Person Act under which gay people can also be arrested for public displays of affection. In a climate of extreme societal homophobia, and where vigilantism is common, this has serious consequences for LGBT persons, gay men especially. While it is rare for cases of sodomy to be taken as far as full prosecution, the reality is that these laws are often used to harass, intimidate, and publicly vilify men who either are or are perceived to be gay.

## OUTfront: How do you think homophobic music contributes to the problem?

**J-FLAG:** Reggae music is a huge force in Jamaica. Dancehall music especially has a huge influence on the younger generation. Many people look up to these artists because quite often, they come from low-income, inner city background as well. People see these artists as heroes because they managed to rise out of the ghetto and made something of themselves. So, they have an incredible influence over people. The highlighting of the content of dancehall

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**PLEASE SUPPORT J-FLAG,  
JAMAICA'S ONLY LGBT RIGHTS ORGANIZATION**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS DOCUMENTED A SERIOUS PATTERN OF HOMOPHOBIC VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE IN JAMAICA. THIS VIOLENCE IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY BOTH STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS AND THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE OR NO ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THESE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

IN SUCH A CLIMATE, THE ACTIVITIES OF J-FLAG ARE CRUCIAL. AT THE FOREFRONT OF LOBBYING AND CAMPAIGNING ON THE ISSUE IN JAMAICA, THEIR WORK SUPPORTING LGBT PEOPLE AND PROMOTING AN AGENDA OF INCLUSION AND EQUALITY IN EXTREMELY HOSTILE CONDITIONS IS ESSENTIAL. THEIR ACTIVITIES INCLUDE RUNNING A TELEPHONE HELPLINE, WORKSHOPS, AND TRAINING OF AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING HEALTH CARE WORKERS, MEDIA AND STUDENTS.

THEREFORE, IN ADDITION TO WRITING TO THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTACT J-FLAG TO FIND OUT HOW YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE ORGANIZATION AND THEIR WORK.

**JAMAICA FORUM FOR LESBIANS,  
ALL-SEXUALS AND GAYS  
(J-FLAG)  
P.O. Box 1152  
Kingston 8  
JAMAICA  
[www.jflag.org](http://www.jflag.org)**

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music, questioning it, is really making people think about what is really being said. Because when people listen to these artists as role models, people really listen to what they say. I've seen young children, four- or five-years-old, dancing to a popular [homophobic] song, singing about chi-chi men—in essence learning to discriminate against gay people even before they know what homosexuality is. I think it's something that society really needs to address right now. Many people are now starting to realize that this debate has raised an issue that is part of a larger problem. And the dancehall music industry is now being forced to take it on. And it's a nasty fight.

**OUTfront: Give us your opinion on the controversy surrounding the efforts by some LGBT activists, to boycott those Jamaican recording artists whose lyrics have included graphic incitement of homophobic violence? Dissenting activists are critical of tactics that they say are racist – demonizing people of color and a blanket condemnation of a Jamaican cultural art form.**

**J-FLAG:** I think there's been a lot of knee-jerk reaction to the campaign. And I think many of those people bringing accusations of racism and cultural imperialism really need to examine where they're coming from. My perception of the campaign is not that there has been an attack on Jamaican music or culture, my perception is that the campaign is being perceived as solely run by white organizations. I think there are at least 150 organizations involved in the campaign and many of those are black organizations. So, I think it's really a misperception that it's a campaign that's targeting Jamaican music and culture. What

it's really doing is specifically targeting the lyrics content of a cohort of dancehall musicians. I think that as campaigners, we need to be always aware of these criticisms, of real problems of racism and cultural imperialism, and make sure that we don't say or do anything that can contribute to them. But I think a lot of these accusations are just red herring to draw away from the real issue, which is the fact that black Jamaicans are being discriminated against by other black Jamaicans, and that there is a real problem within Jamaica of violence against gay people.

**OUTfront: Tell us about your organization.**

**J-FLAG:** We've been around since 1998. We came about really because there was a need for an organized voice for the gay community. There was an organization in the 70s and early 80s called, Gay Freedom Movement, started by Larry Chang, but it closed in the mid-80s. Larry was the most vocal member of the gay community here in Jamaica. Since 1998, J-FLAG managed to stay together despite difficulties in funding and members leaving the country.

We offer support to the LGBT community principally through our Helpline. We get calls from all over the country, particularly from gay people who feel isolated in their communities. We also run a public education program where we have discussion forums on chosen topics for different target audiences, such as health care workers, peer educators, students. The discussion forums are a contained, controlled environment which is maintained as a safe space. For many people, these forums are the first opportunity they have to interact openly with a gay

person. We also offer a referral service for counseling, legal support for those who are victims of discrimination and abuse, and advocate for gay people who get into trouble. We also help out gay Jamaicans who seek asylum [in other countries] by providing documentation.

**OUTfront: How can the international LGBT community support your organization and the LGBT community in Jamaica?**

**J-FLAG:** By continuing to challenge homophobia that comes out of Jamaica, whether it's the dancehall artists, or others. I just like to note that we have gotten lots of mail from Amnesty members, and it's really important. Moral support is very important. And I would like to ask people to continue to write to Jamaican officials.

But let's take this current campaign as an example, what it has done is that it has forced the Jamaican government to get involved in the debate—which is something that they've never done before—because this campaign is directly impacting revenues that the music industry brings to the country. More generally, when issues like this get raised on an international level, they actually do have an impact here.

**OUTfront: What would you like to see happen in the next 2 years?**

**J-FLAG:** I would like to see more positive messages coming out of the Jamaican music scene. If we can turn around the Jamaican music industry and encourage them to come out with positive messages instead of destructive messages, I think that will be a major achievement. I would like to see the opening up of debate on the parliamentary level on homophobia and violence.

At home here, a lot of people get very hung up on issues of [gay] marriage, people are very sensitive to American or outside cultural influence, or cultural imperialism. People always bring up the issue of marriage and say, "Look what's happening in the US, and it's going to happen here." I think it draws away from the real debate. We're really not at that level in Jamaica at all. We're not even at the level where people can walk down the streets [as openly gay] and not get attacked. So, to talk about gay marriage or adoption rights and all of those things are kind of pie in the sky for us right now. But if we can even get to the basic level where people respect our right to live our lives and not be targets for violence, I think that would be a major achievement. And I'm hoping that in the next two years, we can see some kind of societal change towards that.

# ACTION UPDATES

## MALAYSIA

On Sept. 2, **Anwar Ibrahim**, the former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, was released following a decision by the Malaysian highest court to overturn his sodomy conviction. The decision came nearly six years after he was sent to prison on charges of “abuse of power” and sodomy.

Ibrahim had always maintained that the charges against him were politically motivated. He was dismissed from his government posts in 1998 after policy disagreements with former Prime Minister **Mahathir Mohammed**. Following an unfair trial Ibrahim was sentenced to six years in prison for corruption in 1999, and an additional nine-years for sodomy in 2000. In a notorious photo taken during the early phase of his trial, Ibrahim is shown appearing in court with a black eye and a broken arm having been beaten by the former national chief of police.

Amnesty International, which has been campaigning on Ibrahim’s behalf, considers the ruling a significant step towards restoring trust in the rule of law and respect for human rights in Malaysia.

Earlier this year, new Malaysian Prime Minister, **Abdullah Badawi**, created a Royal Commission of Inquiry to examine police corruption and abuse, and make recommendations for wide-ranging reform. The Commission’s report is due in early 2005.

## HONDURAS

In a historic move, the Honduran government granted legal status to LGBT organizations on August 27. Honduras is only the second Central American country to legally recognize LGBT organizations working to combat stigma and discrimination. Among those granted legal status are El Colectivo Violeta, La Comunidad Gay Sampedrana, and El Grupo Kunkulican, three LGBT groups featured in Amnesty reports and actions.

The announcement provoked intense anger from many Hondurans, church, the media, and government. The ferocity of the backlash caused many members of the LGBT community to fear homophobic violence. Amnesty International and other organizations are asking everyone to continue to voice their support for these Honduran LGBT organizations.

*For more updates and other current actions, please go to our website: [www.amnestyusa.org/outfront](http://www.amnestyusa.org/outfront).*



**NEW YORK CITY**



**MEXICO CITY**



**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

## AMNESTY ACTIVISTS CELEBRATE JUNE PRIDE AROUND THE WORLD.



**AMSTERDAM**



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# PLANNING OUR FUTURE

## Fall means Amnesty International Regional Conferences

Each fall, AIUSA's five regions host their annual human rights conferences. The conferences cover a wide range of current human rights concerns globally and locally, including LGBT human rights issues. Important organizational policies are also discussed and debated. For more information and registration materials please contact the relevant regional office.

### October 15-17

#### Midwest Regional Conference

St. Louis, Missouri

Contact: Adriana Portillo-Barto, (312) 427-2060  
aportillobarto@aiusa.org

### November 5-7

#### Southern Regional Conference

Houston, Texas

Contact: Suha Dabbouseh, (404) 876-5661  
sdabbous@aiusa.org

### November 12-14

#### Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

College Park, Maryland

Contact: Pascale Craan, (202) 544-0200;  
pcraan@aiusa.org

### November 13-14

#### Western Regional Conference

Salt Lake City, Utah

Contact: Kathy Brown, (310) 815-0450;  
kbrown@aiusa.org

### November 13-14

#### Northeast Regional Conference

Boston, Massachusetts

Contact: Cynthia Gabriel, (617) 623-0202;  
cgabriel@aiusa.org

### November 10-14

#### 17th Annual Creating Change Conference

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force's (NGLTF) annual conference is the largest national gathering of LGBT activists in the U.S. Visit their website for more details: [www.nglhf.org](http://www.nglhf.org). The primary educational goal of Creating Change is to build an anti-racist LGBT movement that includes and reflects the perspectives, needs and priorities of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists of all ages, races, ethnic and language origins, spiritualities and incomes. Look out for the OUTfront contingent at the conference.

### December 1

#### World AIDS Day

<http://www.worldaidsday.org/>

World AIDS Day was started in 1988 to raise awareness and educate people about HIV/AIDS, fight stigma and discrimination associated with HIV/AIDS, and raise money to combat this global epidemic. Look for special Amnesty World's AIDS Day actions on the AIUSA website: [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org).

### December 10

#### HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

On 10 December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted unanimously by the United Nations. The UDHR declares that the "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." Each year, Amnesty activists around the world celebrate International Human Rights Day to commemorate the UN adoption of the UDHR. Contact your Amnesty Regional Offices for specific events.

## HELP COMBAT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDERED (LGBT) PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD.

### JOIN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA'S LGBT NETWORK OUTFRONT!

I would like to become a member of Amnesty International and OUTFRONT. Enclosed are my membership dues:

\$25: INDIVIDUAL  \$15: STUDENT  \$15: SENIOR/LIMITED INCOME

My Amnesty International Student or Local Group would like to sign up for the OUTFRONT Network.

I am currently a dues paying member of Amnesty International and would like to become a member of OUTFRONT.

I understand that Amnesty International depends on the generosity of members. I want to make an additional contribution. For membership dues and a contribution combined, I am giving:

\$50  \$75  \$100  OTHER \$

PLEASE MAIL OR FAX THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES AND DONATION TO:

Amnesty International USA — OUTFRONT,  
322 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10001  
Telephone: (212) 807-8400 Fax: (212) 627-1451 NLGCB

YES, I want to sign-up for the OUTfront E-Action Network and receive monthly action alerts through my email: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGN UP A FRIEND! IF YOU ARE ALREADY A MEMBER OF AMNESTY OUTFRONT USE THIS COUPON TO SIGN A FRIEND UP.

I want to give by:

CHECK (Made payable to Amnesty International USA)

VISA

MASTERCARD

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

### GET ON THE BUS!



Photo credit: David Rendell



At the 9th annual Get on the Bus, organized by AI Group 133 in Somerville, MA, nearly 1,000 activists descended on New York City for a day of human rights demonstrations at various consulates and embassies. This year's featured actions included the government crackdown on gay men in Egypt. Wissam Tawfiq Abyad, a prisoner of conscience recently released, spoke to the crowd before the rally in front of the Egyptian Consulate.

### More Amnesty activists in action...



Smokey Hill High School, AI Chapter



AI student activists garage sale, Denver, CO.

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#### National Office

Michael Heflin, Program Director  
Ariel Herrera, Field Organizer/Membership Coordinator

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Brian Griffey/Mona Cadena

#### National Steering Committee

The volunteer national steering committee works with the staff to shape the goals and priorities of the OUTfront program.  
Christina Alvarez, Co-Chair  
Shawn Gaylord, Co-Chair  
Gonzalo Isidro Bruno, Will Cordery, Marta Donayre, Susana Fried, Jean Freedberg, Shante T. Smalls

### OUTFRONT



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S  
PROGRAM ON LESBIAN,  
GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANS-  
GENDER HUMAN RIGHTS