

**TRANSGENDER EUROPE MAILINGLISTE:
BERICHTE VON HASS-VERBRECHEN AN TRANS-MENSCHEN IN DER TÜRKEI**

**TRANSGENDER EUROPE MAILINGLIST:
HATE CRIMES ON TRANS PEOPLE AT TURKEY**

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----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] Fwd: HATE CRIME Turkey

Datum: Wed, 11 Mar 2009 16:33:49 +0100

sad news from Turkey - again.

-----Oorspronkelijk bericht-----

Van: Michelle Kurt Demishevich [mailto:michellekurt@gmail.com]

Verzonden: woensdag 11 maart 2009 13:32

Today March 10 at 13:40 our Transsexual Friend Ebru has been murdered at her own house

Invitation to a Press Conference Our Transsexual friend Ebru has been stabbed to death at her own apartment on March 10.

We; who have been saying that Transsexual and Transvestite murders are political murders, are going to protest the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual phobic system which does not define "Hate Crimes", awards the Killers by reducing their prison sentences, does not provide any constitutional rights to Gay, Lesbian, Transsexual, bisexuals, and transvestite population, and makes these type of murders much easier.

To commemorate Ebru and many others like her, We will be having a press conference in front of Ebru's house on Purtelas street. We are asking all to join us and support us on our cause for a just world for all.

Press Conference

Date: March 12, 2009

Time: 13:00

Memorial

Date: March 12, 2009

Time: 18:30

Lambdaistanbul LGBTT Dayanisma Dernegi

Tel: +90 (0) 212 245 70 68

Istiklâl Caddesi, Katip Celebi Mah. Tel Sok. No: 28/6 Kat:5 Beyoglu - Istanbul

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

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Michelle Kurt :: +90 536 4177787

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] TGEU Press Release

Turkish Police fails to prevent murder on transgender woman (15/03/09)

Datum: Sun, 15 Mar 2009 21:11:55 +0100

Press Release * TransGender Europe * March 15, 2009 * for immediate release*
Turkish Police fails to prevent murder on transgender woman

Ebru Soykan (28), a Turkish transgender activist has been murdered on March 10th 2009 in her apartment in Istanbul. TransGender Europe is greatly concerned that the Turkish state failed once more its positive obligation to protect people and to investigate not only violence but also threats of violence. The murder on Ebru Soykan could have been prevented. Ebru Soykan has repeatedly reported violent attacks and death threats to the prosecutor's office in the last month, who deliberately decided not act upon them.

"Trans women in Turkey face extreme amounts of harassment and violence from their partners, people in the street and police forces on a daily basis." states Sinan, friend of Ebru and Turkish transgender activist. Human Rights Watch[1] <#_ftn1> and the LGBT Rights Platform[2] <#_ftn2> have repeatedly reported the long and continuing history of violence and abuse based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Turkey.

TGEU requests local and national authorities to establish an independent body to investigate in the failure to protect Ebru Soykan's life. The police officers in charge have to be held responsible.

Violence and murder against transgender people have to be included into the Turkish criminal code as hate crimes ("Nefret Sucu"). "Crimes of passion" or "moral provocation" must not be valid reasons to exempt perpetrators from punishment – or get Ebru's murderer a softer sentence. Transgender people have to be protected by the law against Discrimination.

“There is no excuse to not grant this community their full and unconditional human rights”, as Thomas Hammarberg, Human Rights Commissioner at the Council of Europe puts it.

TGEU demands Turkish State officials work to stop the violence against its transgender citizens and to foster legislative changes complying with the EU accession criteria.

TransGender Europe – TGEU works for the equality of all transgender people in Europe. For more information on TGEU, please visit www.tgeu.org <<http://www.tgeu.org>>.

[1] <#_ftnref1>Human Rights Watch (2008) “We Need a Law for Liberation”<<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/05/21/we-need-law-liberation-0>>

[2] <#_ftnref2><http://news.kaosgl.com/item/2009/1/29/platform-of-lgbt-rights-situation-in-turkey-in-2008>

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] Attacks and murders in Eskisehir, Bursa and Edirne in Turkey

Datum: Sat, 28 Mar 2009 00:04:36 +0200

sorry to post this news,,

2 other transgender women have been murdered and one have been attacked.

tomorrow we will make a demo and a press release..

rüzgar

on behalf of lambdaistanbul

"Attacks and murders in Eskisehir, Bursa and Edirne in Turkey"

LGBT Rights Platform

*Press Release, *Thursday, **26 March 2009, Turkey

*Subject: *Attacks and murders in Eskisehir, Bursa and Edirne in Turkey

**

Homophobic and transphobic violence doesn't stop: Assault in Eskisehir, murders in Bursa and Edirne!

A transsexual woman was attacked and beaten in Eskisehir. A transsexual woman was found her head cut in Bursa. A man has been killed by his friend on the claim that he asked for sexual intercourse.

There is still no word from the authorities about the cases of Ahmet Yildiz who were shot to death on 15 July 2008 in Istanbul and Dilek Ince who were shot to death on 12 November 2008 in Ankara. While we were in grief after them, another transsexual woman Ebru Soykan was stabbed to death on 10 March 2009 in Istanbul.

We continue to ask the same question again, “When are you going to stop watching?” The murderers, who are encouraged by the silence of the state, continue on their fearless attacks. The recent news from Bursa horrified the LGBT community in Turkey. We are in great sorrow after these brutal attacks.

**

Human rights violations against LGBT individuals continue in the form of violation of rights to life

Because crimes against LGBT individuals are not punished!

Killers are being awarded with grievous provocation decreases in punishment!

LGBTT individuals are being excluded and isolated through hate speech!
LGBTT individuals forced into isolation are represented as lives with no values!
LGBTT individuals are being avoided from their legal rights and thus unprotected!

**

We are worried!

Because the government does not take action to enact necessary legislation and implementation to avoid human rights violations against LGBTT individuals
We don't know if there will be any comments on the killings of Ahmet Yildiz and Dilek Ince!
We are worried because we don't know whether the person who killed Ebru Soykan will be awarded with grievous provocation decrease in punishment!
We are not sure if the brutal murder in Bursa will be solved, or not!
We are concerned, because the government makes LGBTT persons easy targets by watching the attacks on them and thus encourages murderers.
We are concerned, because the government is paving the way for killings by not protecting the right to life of its LGBTT citizens.

**

We ask!

Until when are you going to stop watching the hate against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transvestite, and Transsexual (LGBTT) individuals?
Until when are you going to stop awarding crimes against LGBTT individuals and encouraging new crimes?
Why are the police departments in Istanbul and Ankara not able to find the murderers of Ahmet Yildiz and Dilek Ince?
Why are there no comments from the Public Prosecutors?
Will the Bursa case be solved?
We wonder if there is an undeclared war against homosexuals and transsexuals in Turkey?
If not, how many others should be killed to make you take action?

We don't need mercy; we claim our basic human rights:

The right to life of LGBTT individuals must be protected equally with other citizens.
Cases of gay and trans murders must be solved.
Attackers and murderers must be found.
Decreases based on grievous provocation while punishing murderers of gay and trans persons must be abolished.
Crimes against LGBTT individuals must be defined under "hate crimes."
You are committing crime by watching the murders, not providing right to life and imprisoning LGBTT persons into an unjust life!

**

LGBTT RIGHTS PLATFORM

Izmir Black Pink Triangle Association
Izmir Transvestite and Transsexual Initiative
Kaos GL Association
Lambdaistanbul LGBTT Solidarity Association
PurpleHand Eskisehir LGBTT Initiative
Pink Life LGBTT Solidarity Association
Diyarbakir Pyramid LGBTT Initiative

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www.lambdaistanbul.org

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----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] CALL FOR ACTION!!!

Datum: Sat, 18 Apr 2009 17:24:17 +0300

CALL FOR ACTION

This is a call to our friends and allies for solidarity and action! This call is rising from our frustration on the nonstopping hate crimes and deep worries about the closure case on Lambdaistanbul.

*On April 29th, one day before Lambdaistanbul's last hearing, we as LGBT activists will take our place on the streets of İstanbul and demand our rights once again. *

*With this call we ask from our friends and allies around the world to support us on the same day, by demonstrating in front of their local Turkish Embassies and creating international pressure. *

Please contact: Rüzgar from Lambdaistanbul (rggozum@gmail.com <mailto:rggozum@gmail.com>) and Kemal from Kaos GL (kord_ek@yahoo.com <mailto:kord_ek@yahoo.com>) about the actions.

Although being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender is not criminalised in Turkey, discrimination practices and persecutions of LGBT people are commonplace. Therefore, in this call, we as Kaos GL Cultural Research and Solidarity Association, Lambdaistanbul LGBTT Solidarity Association and Pink Life LGBTT Solidarity Association in Turkey, ask for solidarity and urge human rights NGOs and groups in Europe to take necessary actions against human rights violations of LGBT individuals in Turkey.

[These official bodies will be provided with possible strategies by us with a separate attachment when they are e-mailed.]

Below, you will find the current major problems of LGBT people in Turkey, explained with real cases. In addition, the demands of LGBT rights organizations from the Turkish government.

A.HATE CRIMES

1) LGBT people have been facing attacks and murders and unluckily, these crimes have increased contemporarily. Here are some examples of hate crimes from the passing year – both in the form of attacks and murders

[You will find an extra document in which hate crimes against LGBT individuals in two years are listed in detail]:

- Ahmet Yıldız, a gay man, was shot to death on 15 July 2008, in İstanbul.
- Dilek İnce, a transsexual woman, was shot to death on 12 October 2008, in Ankara.
- Ebru Soykan, a transsexual woman, was stabbed to death on 10 March 2008, in İstanbul.
- Özkan Zengin confessed under police interrogation that he killed six gay men [Mehmet Naci Zeyrek, Ercan Coşkun, Enes Arıcı, Yaşar Mızrak, Aziz Taşdemir, Tarık Güzeller] in a year, from 2008 May to 2009 March.

- Melek D., a transsexual woman, was stabbed to death in her house on 11 April 2009, in Ankara.

2) We, as Kaos GL, Lambdaistanbul and Pink Life Associations are worried, since the number of hate crimes is increasing and the Turkish government does not take any necessary action in the form of enacting legislation and implementation. We urge the Turkish Government to:

- Find the attackers and murderers of LGBT people.
- Define attacks and murders against LGBT individuals as "hate crimes".
- Stop decreasing the sentences based on "provocation" while punishing murderers or attackers of LGBT people.
- Amend the Turkish Penal Code (Article 122) in order to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Amend the Turkish Constitution (Article 10) to give equal rights to LGBT people.
- Eliminate discrimination against transgender individuals in employment and develop programs that will open employment opportunities outside the sex work, which is carried out in dangerous conditions.

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tx] [tgeu-info] Call for Solidarity with the Turkish Communities

Datum: Sun, 26 Apr 2009 22:57:58 +0200

Dear friends,

I'd like to remind you that even the EUP Intergroup expressed their concerns about the development in Turkey - see below.

We followed the appeal of the Turkish groups „Kaos GL Cultural Research and Solidarity Association“, „Lambdaistanbul LGBTTT Solidarity Association“ and „Pink Life LGBTTT Solidarity Association"and initiated a manifestation in front of the Turk embassy in Vienna next Wednesday. Lots of LGBT-groups support the demonstration by now. If you can read a German text please go to <http://transx.at/2904>. There you'll also find some English texts like the one below.

We would appreciate if TGEU.org could show solidarity with our Turkish friends too.

Best
Eva Fels
TransX

Press release from the European Parliament's Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights
20 April 2009

"European Parliament's Intergroup concerned about the ruling of the Turkish Supreme Court."

European Parliament's Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights welcomes the decision of the Turkish Supreme Court of Appeals (Yargitay) overturning the ruling of a local court on the closure of LGBT organisation Lambdaistanbul. However the Intergroup is very concerned about the wording in the ruling which states that "dissolution of the organisation could be possible if it would act in*the ways of encouraging or provoking LGBT behaviour or acting with the aim of spreading such sexual orientations."*

"This wording is jeopardising freedom of assembly and speech of LGBT citizens and their organisations," said Michael Cashman, President of the Intergroup. "This statement is contrary to fundamental rights as we understand them in Europe. It is severely tampering rights of LGBT

citizens not only freely spread but also receive information intended to them. If Turkey is to join EU, it must treat all human beings equally and respect the rights of every citizen".

The case on the closure of Lambda Istanbul will re-open on the local level shortly. The European Parliament's Intergroup will closely follow the hearing on 30 April and hopes that this time the local court will safeguard the freedom of association to LGBT citizens.

ENDS

For further information on the Intergroup please visit our website:

<http://www.lgbt-ep.eu> <<http://www.lgbt-ep.eu>>

Representatives of European Parliament's Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights:

President: Michael Cashman MEP (UK/PSE)
Vice-President: Lissy Gröner MEP (DE/PSE)
Vice-President: Sophie in 't Veld MEP (ALDE)
Vice-President: Raül Romeva MEP (G/EFA)
Vice-President: Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP (EPP-ED)

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] Fwd: [sogi] Turkish Government Needs to Respect and Protect the Human Rights of LGBT People

Datum: Wed, 29 Apr 2009 12:33:18 -0400

----- Forwarded message -----

Subject: [tx] [sogi] Turkish Government Needs to Respect and Protect the Human Rights of LGBT People

Date: Wed, Apr 29, 2009 at 12:19

IGLHRC has written a letter to the Turkish government supporting a call from Turkish groups for an investigation into a series of murders of gay men and transgender people, and for proactive legislative and policy measures to protect LGBT individuals from violence and discrimination, including discrimination concerning the right to freedom of association and expression. This was recently illustrated by the legal action taken to shutdown the organization Lambda Istanbul.

The case against Lambda Istanbul is to re-open on April 30, 2009 in the local court in Istanbul, whose initial decision on May 29, 2008 to close down the organization was overturned by the appeal court on November 25, 2008.

His Excellency, Abdullah Gul, the President of the Republic of Turkey Fax: (+90) 312 470 13 16

His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Prime Minister Fax: (+90) 312 417 04 76

His Excellency Koksal Toptan, the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly Fax: (+90) 312 420 51 65

His Excellency Mehmet Ali Sahin, Minister of Justice Fax: (+90) 312 419 33 70

His Excellency Ali Babacan, Minister of Foreign Affairs Fax: (+90) 312 287 88 11

Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Republic of Turkey via email: besir.atalay@icisleri.gov.tr
<<mailto:besir.atalay@icisleri.gov.tr>>

April 29, 2009

Your excellencies,

On behalf of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), I am writing to you as honorable representatives of the executive and legislative branches of the

Government of Turkey to support the call by Turkish organizations for the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals¹ human rights.

The Turkish groups, which include Kaos GL from Ankara, Lambda Istanbul, and Pink Life, call for a vigorous investigation into a series of murders of gay men and transgender people, and for proactive legislative and policy measures to protect LGBT individuals from violence and discrimination, including discrimination concerning the right to freedom of association and expression, illustrated by the legal action taken to shutdown the organization Lambda Istanbul.

This is a question of international human rights law to which Turkey is subject.

International human rights law offers specific protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In its decision, *Toonen v. Australia* (1994), the United Nations Human Rights Committee affirmed that existing protections against discrimination in Articles 2 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) include sexual orientation. Numerous UN treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council, and Special Procedures have recognized sexual orientation and gender identity as nondiscrimination grounds.

The European Court of Human Rights has also established a consistent jurisprudence in support of the elimination of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity under the European Convention on Human Rights. Other Council of Europe bodies, including the Parliamentary Assembly and the Human Rights Commissioner, have taken strong stands against discrimination of LGBT people.

As for the European Union, discrimination based on sexual orientation is explicitly prohibited in Art. 13 of the Treaty of the European Community (Amsterdam) and Art. 21(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the European Union. Turkey is also required to observe the political criteria for accession to the European Union, as established by the European Council in Copenhagen in 1993, which includes respect and protection for of all minorities.

The series of murders of gay men and transgender people, which appear to be motivated by hatred, needs to be vigorously investigated.

Abdulbaki Kosar, a gay man, was murdered in February 2006 in Istanbul, Ahmet Yildiz, a gay man, was shot to death on July 15, 2008 also in Istanbul. Dilek Ince was shot to death in October 2008 in Ankara, while Dilan Pirinc was murdered in March 2009 in Istanbul; both were transsexual women. Eda Yildirm, a transgender woman, was found dead in March 2009 in Bursa, and Turgut Koklu (Melek Köklü) a transsexual woman, was stabbed to death in April 2009 in Ankara.

Hate crimes are criminal acts, such as violence <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Violent_crime> and hate speech <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hate_speech> , which are motivated by hostility <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enmity>> against any identifiable group of people within society. Hate crimes have a deep impact not only on the immediate victim, but the group with which the victim identifies; they affect community cohesion and social stability. Anti-LGBT hate crimes are those in which victims are targeted because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression. Therefore a rigorous investigation, as well as stiff penalties for crimes motivated by hate are needed, for both individual and communal security.

The European Parliament called on the Member States in its January 19, 2006 resolution on homophobia in Europe to strongly condemn ³any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation² and ³ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are protected from homophobic hate speech and violence.²

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour also stated on November 7, 2007: ³Just as it would be unthinkable to deny anyone their human rights because of their race, religion or social status, we must also reject any attempt to do so on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. States have a legal obligation to investigate and prosecute

all instances of violence and abuse with respect to every person under their jurisdiction. Respect for cultural diversity is insufficient to justify the existence of laws that violate the fundamental right to life, security and privacy by criminalizing harmless private relations between consenting adults.²

The United Nations Committee Against Torture, which monitors the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, clearly indicated in a 2007 General Comment that states need to take legal measures to address violence and ill-treatment toward marginalized people including LGBT people.³ The protection of certain minority or marginalized individuals or populations especially at risk of torture is a part of the obligation to prevent torture or ill-treatment. States parties must ensure that (Š) their laws are in practice applied to all regardless of (Š) sexual orientation and gender identity. (Š) States parties should, therefore, ensure the protection of members of groups especially at risk (Š) by fully prosecuting and punishing all acts of violence and abuse against these individuals (Š).²

Turkey should adopt legislative and policy measures for the protection of LGBT people. The violence and discrimination against LGBT individuals in Turkey call for specific measures of protection, which are supported by international human rights law. Among its human rights protection measures, Turkey should consider:

Amend its Constitution to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the nondiscrimination grounds in article 10. Several countries including Bolivia, Ecuador, Fiji, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden and Switzerland have included sexual orientation and/or gender identity in their constitutions, establishing a trend for constitutional reform in the last decade. International law is supportive of such a measure; several United Nations human rights treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, called for the adoption of nondiscrimination measures based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The 1995 Ottawa Declaration of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe called upon states to: ³ensure that all persons belonging to different segments of their populations be accorded equal respect and consideration in their constitutions, legislation and administration and that there be no subordination, explicit or implied, on the basis of ethnicity, race, color, language, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or social origin or belonging to a minority^Š²

Introduce provisions in the criminal law to punish ³hate crimes² against LGBT people. Such a measure is supported under the Convention Against Torture: in its Concluding Observations regarding Poland in July 25, 2007, the Committee Against Torture stated: ³the State party should incorporate in its Penal Code an offence to punish hate crimes as act of intolerance and incitation to hatred and violence based on sexual orientation.²

Amend Art. 122 of the Turkish Penal Code on discrimination in employment in order to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the grounds for nondiscrimination. Sexual orientation nondiscrimination measures are required for Turkey's accession to the European Union under the EU Council Directive 2000/78/EC, November 27, 2000, establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation. In its 2004 Regular Report on Turkey's progress towards accession, the European Commission noted that the country ³Still lacks legislation against discrimination on the basis of all prohibited grounds, such as Š sexual orientation.²

Adopt measures against the closure of the LGBT group Lambda Istanbul. We are concerned by the decision of the 7th Judicial Office of the Supreme Court of Appeals which, while overturning the decision of the Istanbul's 3rd Civil Court of Instance (which had decided to close down Lambda Istanbul for a ³violation of general morals²) contains language that can be used to deny the right to free association and expression of LGBT people: ³the dissolution of the defendant association could still be demanded, if it would act counter to its charter, in the ways of encouraging or provoking lesbian, gay, bisexual, transvestite and transsexual behavior or acting with the aim of spreading such sexual orientations.²

Freedom of association and expression are guaranteed under international human rights law. LGBT people are entitled to the right of freedom of association and expression; discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is prohibited (the Council of Europe's European Convention of Human Rights, art. 11 and 10, and the United Nations¹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights art. 22 and 19). The executive government's position in the various legal proceedings should seek the protection of these rights in the case of Lambda Istanbul.

We ask that the Turkish government honor its obligations under existing international human rights law and in relation to EU accession, protecting the rights of the LGBT community to live without the threat of violence and discrimination. Ensuring the rights to free association and expression of Turkish groups, Lambda Istanbul in particular, should be a priority.

Sincerely,
Cary Johnson,
Executive Director

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC)'s mission is advancing human rights for everyone, everywhere to end discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. IGLHRC has offices in New York, Buenos Aires, and Cape Town. www.iglhrc.org <<http://www.iglhrc.org>>

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----
Betreff: [tgeu-info] WG: hate crime again
Datum: Tue, 2 Jun 2009 21:04:29 +0200

Dear all,
apparently another murder took place in Ankara, Turkey on May 23rd.
Please, see the mail below from Michelle.
Very sad, Richard

-----Ursprüngliche Nachricht-----
Von: Michelle Kurt Demishevich [mailto:michellekurt@gmail.com]
Gesendet: Samstag, 23. Mai 2009 21:32
Betreff: hate crime again

again again again....hate crime....cagla has murdered in ankara her own flat....with knife....32 times....killer is missing....the hate crime cant stop in turkez turkish government dosnt working to stop transphobia-----...im so sad i cant writewho is the next ? Is it me?

--
Transgender People's have Human Rights...equal rigts for everyone

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----
Betreff: [tgeu-info] fwd: Trans Murder In Turkey.. Again...
Datum: Mon, 06 Jul 2009 11:53:41 +0200

forwarded message*****german below*****
From: kemal ordek [mailto:kord_ek@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 04, 2009 4:22 PM
Subject: Trans Murder In Turkey.. Again...

Dear Friends,

Unfortunately, one of our transwoman friends was murdered on 29 June 2009, in Istanbul. We are shocked again since we heard about this murder against Hadise (the name of the transwoman) after we happily celebrated our Pride week and Marched in Istiklal Street on 28th June.

We do not know the details of the murder yet very well, however as soon as we get the required information, we will convey them to you!!!

In solidarity !

Kemal Ordek
Kaos GL Association
International Relations Coordinator
Ankara, Turkey
+90 554 465 57 29

Am 29. Juni wurde die tuerkische Transfrau Hadise in Istanbul ermordet. Weitere Details sind noch nicht bekannt, werden aber nachgeliefert so schnell wie moeglich.

Kontkat:
Kemal Ordek
Kaos GL Association
International Relations Coordinator
Ankara, Turkey
+90 554 465 57 29

----- **Original-Nachricht** -----
Betreff: [tgeu-info] another trans killing in Istanbul!
Datum: Thu, 18 Feb 2010 10:24:37 +0100

I forwarded this on twitter, will put in on other websites and I specifically asked Amnesty International after their policy on Turkey, since I haven't heard a word from them on trans and Turkey for ages. They were to be active on it (EMEA coordinator in the Netherlands told me about a year ago).
The murders worldwide and their prevention through acceptance and the end of impunity for the perpetrators has high priority.

vreer, Transgender Network Netherlands

Op 17 feb 2010, om 17:17 heeft Justus Eisfeld het volgende geschreven:
It just never ends.... :-(((I have lost count over the course of the last year, and I believe that this is the third murder already this year.
Justus

----- Forwarded message -----
From: *EBRU KIRANCI* <ebru.kiranci@gmail.com>
Date: 2010/2/17
Subject: [tgeu-info] another trans killing in Istanbul!

> For your information;

On February 17 (last night) another trans-woman was found dead in her apartment in Şehremin, İstanbul. Her name was Fevzi Yener and she was Aycan as a nickname. She was stabbed from 17 different points on her body. Aycan was together with her friend and she was also tried to be

killed but she could escape from the emergency exit in the apartment. Aycan's friend has been hospitalized and she is recovering at the moment.

Istanbul LGBTTT
<http://www.istanbul-lgbtt.org/>

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] FW: *Finals of the Turkish pressers*

Datum: *Mon, 22 Feb 2010 16:15:25 +0100*

*For Immediate Release

****Turkey**:** Stop Violence Against Transgender People**
/Multiple Murders Highlight Inadequate State Protection

/(Ankara, February 22, 2010) – The recent murders of two transgender women in Turkey highlight an ongoing pattern of violence and the urgent need for stronger protection measures by the government, four Turkish and international human rights organizations said today in a letter <<http://www.hrw.org/node/88678>> to Turkish authorities.

The groups called on Turkey to remedy the conditions that place transgender people at risk from acts of violence by enacting anti-discrimination protections, instituting programs to combat prejudice and hatred, and repealing laws that provide an opportunity for police to harass stigmatized groups. The letter was sent by Pembe Hayat “Pink Life,” Human Rights Watch, the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe), and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC).*

“Protecting people and preventing violence means more than investigating after the fact,” said Juliana Cano Nieto, researcher in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights program at Human Rights Watch. “Without meaningful government action to affirm their rights and ensure their safety, transgender people in Turkey will continue to live in fear.”

Since November 2008, at least eight transgender people have been murdered in Istanbul and Ankara. The most recent killing was of a transgender woman called Aycan Yener on February 16, 2010, in the Fatih area of Istanbul. Yener, whose legal given name was Feyzi, was killed in her apartment. Her throat was slit, and she was stabbed 17 times. Assailants also stabbed her roommate, Seyhan Özmemiş, 32, who survived. According to Turkish media, witnesses reportedly observed three people fleeing the scene, but no one has been arrested.

*On February 8, Derya Y., a 35-year-old transgender woman, was killed in her home in the Altındağ district of Antalya. Police found Derya Y. in her bedroom with her throat cut and multiple knife stab wounds to her face and body.

The targeted killings of transgender women are part of a broader pattern of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Turkey. According to Turkish media, the police found 56-year-old Şinasi Halimoğlu, a gay man, dead on his bed on January 28 with multiple knife wounds to his back and neck.

In the wake of the killings, the police have made efforts to investigate and resolve these crimes. In two of the earlier cases, suspects were caught and prosecuted and sentenced to life in prison, and in two other cases suspects are in pre-trial detention. The remaining murders are being investigated. However, little has been done to protect LGBT people in Turkey, especially transgender people, from future acts of violence, the groups said.

In the letter, the organizations recommended:**

- * Enacting anti-discrimination legislation that includes sexual orientation and gender identity as a legal protection;
- * Disaggregate statistics on violence figures that show violence against LGBT people; and
- * Instituting consistent communication between the police and LGBT rights groups.

“All citizens of Turkey, including transgender citizens, are entitled to live without fear of murder or persecution,” said Hossein Alizadeh, coordinator of IGLHRC’s Middle East and North Africa program. “The homophobic killings need to stop, and for this we need the Turkish government to take concrete action to protect transgender people.”

European bodies have called on Turkey, a member of the Council of Europe, and on other states to protect LGBT people from violence. The European Union, to which Turkey is seeking admission, adopted a progress report this month, reminding the Turkish government of the need to safeguard all minorities, including LGBT people. Similarly, in 2009, the commissioner for human rights in the Council of Europe, Thomas Hammarberg, urged all member States to enact legislation that would protect transgender people from attacks and violence.

“The Turkish government should stop ignoring demands by Pembe Hayat and other LGBT’s in Turkey to take measures to stop ongoing transgender killings,” said Kemal Ördök, member of Pink Life. “The Constitution and the Penal Code need to guarantee equality and non-discrimination. The Government in turn needs to stop hate murders against transgender people and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Human rights groups like Pembe Hayat have documented <http://pembedergi.com/tag/transfobi> a long history of police abuse in Turkey, as well as violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity by state and private actors. In 2008, Human Rights Watch issued reports on violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/05/21/we-need-law-liberation-0>, and on police violence <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2008/12/05/closing-ranks-against-accountability-0>, including harassment and abuse against transgender people in Istanbul.

ILGA-Europe will visit Turkey in April to assess Turkey’s compliance with its European and international human rights obligations toward LGBT people and to document the violence, discrimination, and other obstacles they face in Turkey. The organization has asked the authorities to discuss proposed measures to address the human rights concerns of the Turkish LGBT population.

“Turkey is witnessing ongoing violence and hate against LGBT people,” said Silvan Agius, ILGA-Europe’s senior policy officer responsible for transgender equality. “The Turkish government’s response needs to address the problems at their roots by tackling the severe stigma against LGBT people, social exclusion and poverty on the one hand, and the culture of gender stereotypes that is driving the violence and hate on the other.”

For more information, please contact:

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In Brussels, Juris Lavrikovs, the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (English, Russian, Latvian): +32-2-609-54-16

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In New York, Hossein Alizadeh, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (English, Persian): +1-212-430-6016

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] Fwd: Extreme Violence Against Trans Individuals Today - Including The

Founder of Pink Life !!!

Datum: Tue, 18 May 2010 00:21:59 +0200

Another reason why a strong international trans* coalition is necessary!
vreer

Begin forwarded message:

*From: *Kemal Ordek <kemal.ordek@yahoo.com <mailto:kemal.ordek@yahoo.com>>
*Date: *18 mei 2010 00:16:18 GMT+02:00
*Subject: **Extreme Violence Against Trans Individuals Today - Including The Founder of Pink Life !!!*

Trans Individuals in Turkey- Ankara were severely beaten by the police force in Ankara tonight at around 23.00 p.m.. Five Transexual women who are all Pink Life activists were stopped in their car and asked to show their identity cars by the police. They all showed their IDs but the police wanted to get them out and they resisted since this was one of the extreme implementations of the fascist Ankara police against trans individuals.

We as human right activists came along the car they were stopped and asked the police about what they were doing and they did not provide us with any lawful reason about their violence. After a while, the police force started to beat the human rights defenders (namely us who were out of the car - including me and the trans individuals) and they severely beat us!!

We resisted and some of our friends were severely injured. The trans individuals within the car-including two founders of Pink Life were forcibly taken out of the car and were kicked from their stomach and legs, arms and they were severely bloody !!! The silicons of the trans persons were forced and they are severely injured.

The 5 trans people were taken to the police station forcibly- and the police continued to beat them and us - and they are now under custody without any reason!! We human rights activists are waiting in one of the houses of the beaten trans individuals. Tomorrow we will have a press release, most probably.

I will give the required information soon ! Pls try to spread this information since we as trans activists need your solidarity and overt support!!!

Best,
Kemal Ordek
Pink Life LGBTT Solidarity Association
Ankara - Turkey

----- Original-Nachricht -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] Fwd: PRESS RELEASE - Harsh police violence against transgender activists in Turkey

Datum: Tue, 18 May 2010 11:18:56 -0400

----- Forwarded message -----

From: *LGBT Intergroup News* <news@lgbt-ep.eu <mailto:news@lgbt-ep.eu>>
Date: Tue, May 18, 2010 at 11:07
Subject: PRESS RELEASE - Harsh police violence against transgender activists in Turkey

*Turkey****: Harsh police violence against transgender activists***
<<http://www.lgbt-ep.eu/press-releases/turkey-harsh-police-violence-against-transgender-activists/>>

STRASBOURG, 18 May 2010 — Yesterday evening, on the 6th International Day Against Homophobia, uniformed police forces violently attacked five transgender activists from Pink Life Association in Ankara, Turkey.

The activists were forced out of their private car on unclear motives from the police. Attempting to move away a large crowd of human rights defenders attempting to protect the transgender activists, police officers also kicked the crowd and used pepper spray on the defenders. The arrestees were then forcibly brought to the Esat police station sustaining visible injuries, including bloody mouths and noses. Turkish human rights activists have witnessed police forces attacking the 5 transgender arrestees by kicking and beating them with truncheons. They were held in custody until 06:00am.

Ulrike Lunacek MEP, Co-president of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Rights, declared: "Like homophobia, transphobia is not acceptable anywhere, be it inside or outside the European Union. We call for a serious investigation into these acts, and their outright condemnation by police authorities!"

Michael Cashman MEP, Co-president of the Intergroup on LGBT Rights, further added: "How can Turkey claim to be a true democracy if police forces disregard the rule of law, and attack those it must protect? We call on Turkish authorities to reprimand these police officers, and clearly affirm that LGBT people, and in particular transgender people, must be protected from violence."

The European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT Rights strongly condemns the attacks, and will further seek to include mentions of these breaches of human rights by authorities in accession talks between the European Union and Turkey.

ENDS

The European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT Rights:

**Co -Presidents: Michael Cashman MEP (GB-S&D) · Ulrike Lunacek MEP (AT-Greens)
Vice-Presidents: Sophie In't Veld MEP (NL-ALDE) · Raül Romeva i Rueda MEP (ES-Greens)
Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP (FI-EPP) · Rui Tavares MEP (PT-GUE)
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<http://twitter.com/LGBTintergroup>

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: *[tgeu-info] ILGA-Europe's statement on the recent incident of police violence against trans activists in Ankara*

Datum: *Thu, 20 May 2010 23:05:43 +0200*

*ILGA-Europe's statement on the recent incident of police violence against trans activists in Ankara***

On 17 May 2010, the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, 5 trans activists and founding members of Pembe Hayat (Pink Life) were stopped by Ankara police forces, badly beaten up and unlawfully taken into police custody. This incident is part of a recurrent pattern of police harassment and abuse against trans people in Turkey. Trans people in Turkey are regularly subjected to harassment and ill-treatment in the hands of police officer. The police often use the Code on Misdemeanour to charge transgender people various fines including for 'disturbing the traffic'.

Two ILGA-Europe staff members are currently in Turkey documenting human rights violations against LGBT people and raising the issue with various actors, including national human rights institutions and the European Union representation in the country.

Earlier today in Ankara, ILGA-Europe together with its member organisations Pembe Hayat and Kaos GL met with Human Rights President Mehmet Yılmaz Küçük raising the recurrent patterns of discrimination and violence experienced by LGBT people in Turkey.

Mr. Küçük mentioned that last December his office received 36 complaints from trans individuals who were subjected to police harassment, expressing that he is aware of the situation. Mr. Küçük also acknowledged the importance of improving cooperation with local LGBT organisations to raise awareness on the issue.

On its part, the European Union Delegation to Turkey committed to specifically raise the discrimination and violence against LGBT people with relevant ministries in upcoming meetings and discussions on the political criteria for Turkey's European Union accession.

In February 2010, ILGA-Europe together with Human Rights Watch, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) and Pembe Hayat addressed a letter to the government of Turkey, urging for actions to end ongoing violence and murders of transgender people. Read the letter here. <http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/for_media/media_releases/turkey_stop_violence_against_transgender_people>

ILGA-Europe, together with local and international organisations, will continue monitoring the human rights violations of LGBT people in Turkey, working with European institutions and demanding adequate response from Turkish authorities.

See pictures from the two demonstrations held in Ankara and Istanbul on May 18, the day after the police violence.

<http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/picture/2010/demonstrations_in_istanbul_and_ankara_turkey>

Best regards,
Silvan

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] fwd: HATE CRIME IN TURKEY

Datum: Mon, 20 Sep 2010 23:26:18 +0200

Forwarded message

Source and more information Michelle Demishevich: michellekurt@gmail.com

HATE CRIME IN TURKEY

Our transsexual friend Irem has been murdered at her own house! (Bursa, Altiparmak) Our transsexual friend Irem has been killed by drowning at her own flat on September 20.

Transgender murders are political murders. We are going to protest the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender phobic system which does not define "Hate Crimes", awards the Killers by reducing their prison sentences, does not provide any constitutional rights to Gay, Lesbian, Transsexual, bisexuals, and transgenders people, and makes these type of murders much easier.

Michelle Demishevich (michellekurt@gmail.com)
LGBT & Human & Equal Rights Activist

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [tgeu-info] fyi: *Transgender rights defenders look forward to justice in Turkey*

Datum: *Mon, 18 Oct 2010 21:19:59 +0200*

Transgender rights defenders look forward to justice in Turkey

ISTANBUL - Daily News with wires

Monday, October 18, 2010

Leading human rights organizations urge Turkey to investigate the attack against transgender rights activists by police in Ankara in May. The organizations say the police officers responsible for the attack should be held accountable and called for an end to violence against toward transgender people. 'Police ought to protect transgender people and their advocates, not attack them,' says Hossein Alizadeh, an activist

Five human rights organizations have urged Turkey's interior and justice ministers to investigate the attack against five transgender rights activists by police in Ankara in May.

Five activists from the Ankara-based transgender rights organization Pembe Hayat were allegedly arbitrarily detained and beaten by police officers on May 17.

Following the accusations the five were charged with resisting police, before the prosecutor had even concluded an investigation into their complaint of ill treatment. Their trial will be held Thursday and they face up to three years in prison.

Kemal Örddek, general-secretary of Pembe Hayat, told Hurriyet Daily News & Economic Review that the group was driving to a friend's house when four police officers from the Esat Police Station suddenly cut their car off with a police car to stop them. The maneuver could have killed them, and the police put their life in danger, he said. "The police knew them very well," said Örddek, adding that although the officers knew his friends, they accused them of intending to commit sex work and asked them to get out off their car. The activists, however, knew the police had no right to demand that due to a lack of suspicion or evidence and refused, Örddek said.

"The activist insisted on not leaving the car, because there was no accusation to require that. They were on their way to a friend's house, doing nothing more. After this, they called us," he said. The women – Yesim (Duru) Tatlıoğlu, Buse (Bülent) Kılıçkaya, Turkan (Deniz) Küçükkoçak, Selay (Derya) Tunç and Eser (Nehir) Ulus - phoned for help, prompting 25 local human rights observers to go to the scene.

"The police forced the five activists out of the car, beat them with batons, kicked them and sprayed them with tear gas," said Örddek. He said the police screamed at the activists, "Next time we will kill you!"

"They also accused them of blocking the road, but the ironic thing is that the police cars were blocking the door," said Örddek. After the incident their activist friends saw that the police were threatening the locals to get them to give testimony as witnesses against the activists.

Hossein Alizadeh, Middle East and North Africa regional coordinator at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, said that when police turn into perpetrators it becomes painfully clear that official apathy allows leeway for attacks on transgender people. "Police ought to protect transgender people and their advocates, not attack them," he said, Human Rights Watch reported.

Örddek said they have succeeded in raising their voice and both national and international associations have heard them. The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission,

or IGLHRC, Human Rights Watch, COC Netherlands, Global Advocates for Trans Equality, or GATE, and the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Intersex Association, or ILGA-Europe, have sent a letter to the justice and interior ministers.

"The Turkish government is turning us trans-people into criminals, for no other reason than existing. Being trans in Turkey means being judged and condemned just because of what we are," said Mauro Cabral, co-director of GATE. "We are the crime: The government abuses us and forces us to live and die outside the law, instead of protecting us."

According to accusations, police handcuffed the women, forced them to kneel and beat their heads and legs while one policeman told them their activism would not protect them. All five women, allegedly visibly bruised, were forced into a police van and taken to the police station. Police held them in custody until the next morning. They were officially charged on June 18.

Boris Dittrich, acting director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights program at Human Rights Watch said that in a situation of clear discrimination, the justice system treats the victims as attackers. "Turkey needs police who are willing to protect all its people, including transgender individuals."

In their letter, the human rights groups noted that these events are part of a larger pattern of violence and discrimination against transgender people in Turkey. The organizations asked the government to repeal laws, like the Law of Misdemeanors (No. 5326), that facilitate violence against transgender people and instead put in place effective legal protections against discrimination.

"We are outraged by the unbridled trans-phobia in a country aspiring to EU membership and cannot accept the repeated unpunished murders and abuse of the transgender population," said Koen van Dijk, executive director of COC Netherlands, adding that Turkey should uphold its national obligations to provide adequate protection to all people in Turkey, including the transgender population.

"Turkey should improve the situation for its trans-population and develop a strategy to protect their lives," said Evelyne Paradis, executive director of ILGA-Europe. Paradis said the police forces should address their current malpractices and instead foster a culture of working with vulnerable groups.

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URL: www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=transgender-rights-defenders-look-forward-for-justice-2010-10-18

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: *[trans-info-europe] fyi [euro-queer] Turkey: Dismiss Charges Against Transgender Activists*

Datum: *Thu, 23 Dec 2010 20:39:54 +0100*

For your info

Gesendet: Donnerstag, 23. Dezember 2010 18:43

Betreff: [euro-queer] Turkey: Dismiss Charges Against Transgender Activists

View the web version of this email »

<<http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=R57iqjjAN4bZYigMmqC18bjqvRkcQZXb>>

IGLHRC

Turkey: Dismiss Charges Against Transgender Activists

For Immediate Release

(New York, December 23, 2010) Prosecutors must investigate the second arbitrary arrest of transgender rights defenders in Ankara in as many months and drop all charges against the women, three human rights organizations said today. In a letter to the Turkish Interior and Justice Ministries

<<http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=4807dcaT1uTCCq8KSLRBOUV%2FcE0YsGZM>>, the rights organizations called for an end to police harassment of transgender people and expressed concern over the possible targeting of members of the organization Pembe Hayat LGBTT Dayanışma Derneği.

On June 19, 2010, three human rights defenders were arbitrarily detained by police officers while driving through the Seyranbaglari Mah neighborhood in Ankara. Although the human rights defenders filed an official complaint with the Public Prosecutor. The Prosecutor dismissed their complaint and instead permitted charges against them of resisting the police and damaging public property. If convicted, they face up to three years in prison and limitations on their rights of parental guardianship. They could also be barred from public office or leadership within any political, public, or non-profit organization. The next hearing will be on 29 December 2010.

"To be transgender in Turkey means that the police assume that you are a criminal," said Hossein Alizadeh, Middle East and North Africa regional coordinator at the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. "As long as the Turkish government refuses to change discriminatory laws and fails to provide sensitivity training to police, there can be little hope of equality and justice for transgender people in Turkey."

The letter to the Justice and Interior Ministers

<<http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=dssRq6oJiI8d2QrSiZNIkEV%2FcE0YsGZM>> was signed by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, COC Netherlands, and GATE - Global Action for Trans* Equality.

The day of the arrest, Ankara police stopped a car carrying Naz (Burhan) Gudumen, Buse (Bülent) Kılıçkaya, and Selay (Derya) Tunç and informed them that they were under arrest. The women were forcibly dragged by police officers into a waiting police van and were then transported to the police station and held for five hours before being released.

"The Turkish government has a duty to protect transgender human rights defenders, not to persecute them," said Justus Eisfeld, co-director of GATE - Global Action for Trans* Equality. "It is time the government acted on this duty by dropping all arbitrary charges and holding police officers accountable for their actions."

This is the second time in the past three months that transgender activists – including two of the same individuals involved in this latest incident -- have been arrested and criminally charged. On May 17, 2010, five transgender members of Pembe Hyatt, including Ms. Kılıçkaya and Ms. Tunç, were brutally assaulted and detained by Ankara's police. An Ankara court subsequently dismissed the charges against the activists for lack of evidence and condemned the police officers' treatment of the women as "totally wrong." The arrest of Ms. Kılıçkaya and Ms. Tunç within one month of the earlier May incident, and the possible severe penalty of being barred from holding office within an organization that would have a considerable impact on the two activists, suggests that police may be targeting them because of their work for transgender human rights.

In their letter

<<http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=VmxG%2BN9QqJgck8nzipPn6kV%2FcE0YsGZM>>, the human rights groups noted that these events are part of a larger pattern of

violence and discrimination against transgender people in Turkey. Over the past twenty months, at least nine transgender people have been murdered. The organizations asked the government to repeal laws like the Law of Misdemeanors (No. 5326) that facilitate violence against transgender people and instead institute effective legal protections against discrimination. The groups also requested the Turkish government to provide LGBT sensitivity training for law enforcement officers so as to prevent possible future cases.

"COC Netherlands joins in expressing sincere concerns about -yet another- case of unjustifiable police behaviour towards members of the Turkish transgender community," said Koen van Dijk, executive director of COC Netherlands. "Whilst we continue to stand in solidarity with our Turkish friends, we demand the Turkish government to take its responsibility and ensure that trans citizens like any other citizens can live their lives in freedom and security."

*Read the Press Release in Turkish »

<<http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=tthm20ej7m42u7HcmSS7wUV%2FcE0YsGZM>>*

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In Amsterdam: *Bjorn van Roozendaal* COC Netherlands (Dutch, English): +31-622558300

In New York: *Justus Eisfeld* GATE - Global Action for Trans* Equality (English, Dutch, German, Norwegian): +1-646-341-1699

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [trans-info-europe] IMPORTANT !!! Draft Law on Combatting Discrimination and Equality Committee, Turkey

Datum: Wed, 2 Feb 2011 06:49:58 -0800 (PST)

We learned that Justice and Development Party (AKP) Government removed "sexual identity" phrase from the Draft Law on Combatting Discrimination and Equality Committee.

As LGBT organizations working for the human rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trans individuals in Turkey, we urge that "sexual identity" phrase is re-added to the Draft Law on Combatting Discrimination and Equality Committee.

The removal of "sexual identity" phrase from this law proposal which was prepared to protect citizens against discrimination, legitimizes discrimination and human rights violations against LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans) individuals. The removal of "sexual identity" phrase from the proposal, demonstrated that the homophobic approach of Deputy Minister Aliye Kavaf which perceives homosexuality as an illness, reflects the policies of AKP Government once more.

The Government sent the "Draft Law Proposal on Combatting Discrimination and Equality Committee" which was promised to be regulated as one of the steps of "Democratic Opening", to bar associations, academic circles and to NGOs through the Ministry of Interior in the end of 2009.

In the 3rd Article of the Draft Law, named "Equality Principle, Anti-Discrimination and Discrimination Types Within The Scope of Ban", the clause "discrimination is prohibited on the grounds of sex, race, color, language, belief, ethnicity, sexual identity, philosophical and political views, social status, ... and similar grounds" existed. It was realized from the latest version of the Draft Law which is on the official website of the Ministry of Interior that the phrase "sexual identity" was removed.

The Minister of Interior stated during his speech from the Turkish National Assembly Chair in November 2009 that administrative inspection mechanisms on human rights would be established according to international rules and that Combatting Discrimination and Equality Committee would be formed.

A positive process started after meetings of the representatives of human rights organisations with the Minister. The Ministry of Interior started its study in this field by taking the draft law which was prepared by Human Rights Joint Platform with the contribution of Bilgi University and Minority Rights Group (MRG) into consideration. "Sexual identity" was within this study that re-defined the grounds of discrimination.

Within the Draft Law which was prepared by Human Rights Joint Platform and approved by the Ministry of Justice, "sexual identity" was defined as "heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, transexual, transvestite and similar sexual identities".

European Commission, in its "2010 Progress Report for Turkey", listed the discriminative practices against LGBTs and underlined discrimination through the topics; "The Principle of Prevention of Discrimination is Not Obeyed", "Deputy Minister Kavaf Encourages Discrimination", "Decreases in the Sentences of Perpetrators of Homophobic Violence Exist", "Turkish Armed Forces Practice Humiliating Medical Tests", "The Right of Conscientious Objection is Not Recognized", "No Progress was Realized as Regards to Anti-Discrimination in Labour Law", "The Freedom of Association is Prevented", "Discrimination as regards to Fundamental Rights of LGBTs Continues", while stating "The Legislation in Turkey on discrimination is not in parallel with EU acquis. Discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) individuals in terms of fundamental rights continues."

We invite individuals and organisations who are sensitive about discrimination and human rights violations against LGBT individuals to act and react to the Draft Law Proposal on Combatting Discrimination and Equality Committee of the AKP Government for the inclusion of the phrase "sexual identity".

LGBT Initiatives and Associations in Turkey

Çukurova Eşcinsel İnisiyatifi
Hevjîn Diyarbakır LGBTT Oluşumu
İstanbul-LGBTT Dayanışma Derneği
Kadın Kapısı
Kaos GL Derneği
Lambdaistanbul LGBTT Dayanışma Derneği
MorEL Eskişehir LGBTT Oluşumu
Pembe Hayat LGBTT Dayanışma Derneği
Siyah Pembe Üçgen İzmir LGBTT Derneği
Voltrans Trans Erkek İnisiyatifi

----- *Original-Nachricht* -----

Betreff: [trans-info-europe] Transphobic Attacks in Ankara and Eskisehir!

Datum: Wed, 9 Feb 2011 11:47:02 -0800 (PST)

Dear Friends,

Yesterday [09.02.2011], a transwoman [34] was stabbed 16 times from her back and her lungs were hurt. She is under intensive care now in the hospital. The perpetrator is one of her clients. Interestingly, the victim resides in a very well protected apartment and visitors of the residents can only enter with permission from the guards. There are several cameras following any movement within the apartment. The perpetrator was caught by the police 4 hours after the incident. He is under arrest now.

Again yesterday, a transwoman was raped and stabbed in her apartment. We know the perpetrator from the previous cases. A week ago, a transwoman was raped and threatened by the same person. Tomorrow, activists in Eskisehir will file complaints against this person at the prosecutor's office.

FYI.

Kemal Ordek

General Secretary*|| Pink Life [Pembe Hayat] LGBTTT Solidarity Association*
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www.pembehayat.org <<http://www.pembehayat.org/>>