

COMMUNITY ALERT



January 10, 2011

Carlos Castro, Portuguese gay activist, murdered – police have arrested his companion; AVP condemns the violence of this past weekend in New York City and Arizona

AVP has learned that Renato Seabra, a 21 year-old from Cantanhede, Portugal, has been arrested on the charge of second-degree murder in the death of 65-year-old Carlos Castro, a prominent Portuguese journalist and LGBTQ activist. Castro was discovered on Friday, January 7, in his hotel room in the InterContinental Hotel in Times Square which he had been sharing with Seabra. Castro had been beaten to death and castrated. The NYPD and Manhattan District Attorney's Office say that initial reports indicate this was a domestic dispute but are also investigating possible hate and bias motivations. AVP will continue to work with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, the NYPD, as well as the office of New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, to follow up on this incident

Domestic and intimate partner violence impacts LGBTQ communities at the same rate it does the heterosexual community. Intimate partner violence can be lethal and in the past three years, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs has reported a 50% increase in intimate partner violence murders from 2007 to 2009 and an increase of 15% in total reported cases of intimate partner violence between 2008 and 2009.

Castro's murder occurred on a weekend where a gunman open fired in Tucson, Arizona killing six people and injuring 14 people—including the principal target, US Congressional Representative Gabrielle Giffords. AVP expresses our condolences to the family and friends of Carlos Castro and all those who affected by the shooting in Arizona this weekend.

At AVP we know too well the dangers of being targeted for violence because of actual or perceived identity or ideology and have seen an increasing anti-gay rhetoric leading to violence as well as increased reports of intimate partner violence in the past several years. AVP encourages anyone who has experienced violence or has been affected by the violence of this past weekend to contact our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** and speak with a trained counselor, or to report violence anonymously via our [secure online reporting form](#).