

COMMUNITY ALERT



January 12, 2011

Boyfriend and accomplice charged with the murder of Francisco R. Gonzalez Fuentes, of Cliffside Park, New Jersey. Renato Seabra confesses to the murder of Carlos Castro.

AVP has learned that the boyfriend of Francisco R. Gonzalez Fuentes, 46, [whose dismembered body was discovered yesterday](#) in Cliffside Park, New Jersey has been arrested for his murder. Francisco had been reported missing when he failed to show up to work on Sunday at his job of 15 years. Francisco's boyfriend, Pedro Garcia, and a friend, Wilfredo Sanchez [have been charged with murder](#) and the police are treating this as a domestic dispute. AVP is working with Garden State Equality and will continue to provide support to organizations in New Jersey as needed.

Additionally, AVP has learned that Renato Seabra, a 21 year-old from Cantanhede, Portugal, [has confessed to the murder](#) of 65-year-old Carlos Castro, a prominent Portuguese journalist and LGBTQ activist. AVP is continuing to work with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, the NYPD, as well as the office of New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and will continue to follow this incident.

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) [Report on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence in the United States in 2009](#) found that LGBTQ domestic/intimate partner violence reports have risen 15% since 2008. In 2009, NCAVP documented 6 murders related to LGBTQ domestic/intimate partner violence, a 50% rise since 2007.

"At AVP we know that domestic violence - ranging from verbal abuse to physical injury, and including control of finances, medical care and access to our family, friends and children, to the brutal murders we have seen this week - occurs within the LGBTQ communities with the same frequency as in the heterosexual community" said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director. "As a community we must openly and honestly discuss this problem and create an environment where victims of domestic violence can access the support they need to be safe."

If you or anyone you know has ever felt unsafe in a relationship or are concerned about the domestic violence services available to you as a member of the LGBTQ communities, AVP is here to safety plan with you and support you. Please call us on our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) Hotline at (212)714-1141** and speak with a trained counselor, or report violence anonymously via our [secure online reporting form](#).