

NCAVP ALERT



National Advocacy
for Local LGBTQH Communities

MEDIA ALERT

July 02, 2012

Media contact: Chai Jindasurat, 212-714-1184

NCAVP Update: June reports of violence affecting LGBTQH communities in the media in the United States

- 1 murder and 13 total incidents in June

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs ([NCAVP](#)) is concerned by reports of violence impacting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities across the United States that were reported during the month of June, 2012. This month, NCAVP is including an incident that occurred in May 2012 which was reported to NCAVP in June, 2012. **In total, 12 incidents were reported in the media in California, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, New York, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington DC.**

May 27, 2012: Izehe Joseph Martin, 21, used anti-LGBTQH slurs and [ordered his pit bull to attack](#) an unnamed man, 17, after the man told Martin he needed to leash his dog in **Saint Louis, Missouri**. Local law enforcement arrested Martin and he faces charges of assault and armed criminal action. The survivor required medical treatment for minor injuries in response to this attack.

June 3, 2012: Unknown suspect(s) [set fire](#) to Velvet Rope Ultra Lounge, an LGBTQH night club in **Oak Park, Illinois**. Frank Elliot, the club's owner, believed the fire was suspicious because derogatory messages were found scrawled on the wall inside the burned-out club.

June 5, 2012: Students at Roy H. Mann Junior High School [used homophobic epithets and brutally beat](#) Kardin Ulysse, 14, in the Bergen Beach neighborhood of **Brooklyn, New York**. Kardin has had two surgeries to repair damage to his eye and his parents have filed a lawsuit against the city of New York for failure to provide proper supervision for students. The [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#) released a [breaking news alert](#) and has reached out to city officials and community organizations in response to this incident.

June 9, 2012: Brandon Elizares, 16, [completed suicide](#) after enduring years of anti-gay bullying and threats of violence at Andres High School in **El Paso, Texas**. Elizares' mother, Zachalyn Elizares, has stated in media reports that the El Paso Independent school district did everything it could to help solve the problem. The El Paso chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of

Lesbians and Gays ([PFLAG](#)) reached out to Elizares' family and held a joint [memorial service](#) on June 15th in memory of Elizares. PFLAG El Paso also reached out to the two schools Elizares recently attended in response to this incident.

June 9, 2012: Unknown vandals [broke the front windows and doors and destroyed the inside](#) of Sister Louisa's Church, an LGBTQH bar in **Atlanta, Georgia**. Owner Grant Henry stated in media reports that he feels this incident was bias motivated because nothing was stolen, including cash and valuables, from the bar. Local law enforcement are investigating this incident as a possible hate crime. NCAVP member SpeakOut Georgia reached out to the bar and is planning a town hall meeting to raise awareness about violence against LGBTQH communities.

June 9, 2012: An unnamed man [yelled homophobic slurs and then physically attacked](#) an openly gay man at the bar of Yotel, a luxury hotel in **Manhattan, New York**. According to witnesses, Yotel staff were unresponsive when this incident occurred. The [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#) released a [community alert](#) informing community members of this incident, opportunities to get involved, and encouraging community members who have experienced violence to reach out for free and confidential support.

June 10, 2012: Unknown vandals spray painted multiple homes and properties, including [anti-gay slurs](#) on the car of Kim Loverling and her partner in the Lake Interlochen neighborhood of **Arlington, Texas**. Arlington Police made [five arrests](#) in response to this incident. In a local [press conference](#), [Fairness Forth Worth](#) and the [Human Rights Campaign](#) praised Arlington Police for their handling of this vandalism.

June 13, 2012: An unnamed man approached Baton Bob, 60, a gender nonconforming performer also known as Bob Jamerson, called him a "damn f—got," and then [threatened to kill him](#) in **Atlanta, Georgia**. Baton Bob removed himself from the situation to continue performing. The Atlanta Police Department released a statement encouraging Jamerson to file a police report in response to this incident.

June 15, 2012: An unnamed sat on top of another man, [called him anti-gay slurs and beat him](#) while other men watched and cheered at a liquor store in **San Francisco, California**. Leo Volobrynsky, who identifies as gay, saw this incident and called local law enforcement in response. The attacker then punched Volobronsky in the face, knocking him unconscious, and stole his wallet. Volobronsky suffered a broken tooth and fourteen stitches in his mouth as a result of this attack.

June 19, 2012: A clerk at a local Lowe's store [used anti-gay slurs and threatened to physically assault](#) Jeremy Smythe, his partner, and their 14 year old son in **Riverside, California**. Lowe's employees had to restrain the clerk from becoming physically violent. The clerk then threatened Smyth and his family that he had their address and would come find them. Smythe filed a police report and a restraining order against the clerk. Lowe's released a statement saying, "Customer service is one of our top priorities, and we're looking into this situation" as a result of this incident.

June 19, 2012: An unnamed man [yelled anti-gay slurs and attacked](#) openly gay Shawn Farris after his 20th annual high school reunion in **Franklin County, Tennessee**. The Franklin County

Sherriff's Office has stated that they will not investigate this incident as a hate crime, but Farris has stated publically he feels it was bias motivated.

June 22, 2012: A young lesbian couple, Mollie Judith Olgin, 19, and Mary Kristine Chapa, 18, were found [shot in the head](#) in a park in **Portland, Texas**. Olgin died as a result of the shooting and Chapa is in critical condition. Several communities across the country [organized vigils](#) in response to this attack. NCAVP members, [Dallas Resource Center](#), and [Montrose Counseling Center](#), participated in vigils in Dallas and Houston, Texas. Chapa's family has set up a [donation fund](#) to help offset her medical expenses as a result of this attack. [Equality Texas](#) held a vigil in Portland, Texas with the young women's friends and family on June 29th.

June 26, 2012: Desmond Campbell, 33, and Alvonica Jackson, 25, Ali Jackson, 19, approached an unnamed man, 16, calling him anti-gay slurs in **Washington, DC**. Campbell and Jackson then [held the man in a headlock while Jackson stabbed him](#) in the left bicep, lower back, and left leg. The man then produced a can of pepper spray and sprayed the three assailants before they fled the scene. D.C. police charged the three with assault with a dangerous weapon and listed the incident as an anti-gay hate crime.

According to NCAVP's [report](#) *Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2011*, there were 30 anti-LGBTQH hate murders in 2011, the highest number of hate violence murders ever recorded by NCAVP, despite a 16% decrease in overall reports of hate violence. Additionally, NCAVP's 2010 [report](#) *Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and HIV Communities* documented 38.1% increase in reports of LGBTQH intimate partner violence between 2009 and 2010. NCAVP believes that together communities can prevent and end violence impacting LGBTQH people and calls on community members, anti-violence organizations, and public officials to join efforts to end violence within and against LGBTQH communities.

Contact Information for Organizations Responding to Incidents

Dallas Resource Center

1-866-657-AIDS

www.rcdallas.org

Equality Texas

512-474-5475

www.equalitytexas.org

Fairness Forth Worth

817-269-8399

www.fairnessfortworth.org

Montrose Counseling Center

713-529-0037

www.montrosecounselingcenter.org

New York City Anti-Violence Project

212-714-1141

www.avp.org

PFLAG EI Paso

915-209-2667

www.pflagelpaso.webs.com

NCAVP is providing all information available regarding these reports and is not responsible for the complete accuracy of the specific details pertinent to allegations, police investigations, and criminal trials. Initial reports of these incidents come from media reports of LGBTQH violence and not direct service provision from NCAVP member programs. NCAVP has reached out to local organizations in these areas and is offering assistance to support their anti-violence efforts.

NCAVP works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected (LGBTQH) communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs, affiliate organizations and individuals who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the [New York City Anti-Violence Project](#).

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