

COMMUNITY ALERT



September 22, 2010

AVP condemns most recent hate violence incident on Staten Island

AVP is outraged by the recent attacks targeting Mexican immigrants and members of the LGBTQ community on Staten Island. In what became the twelfth hate violence incident to be reported in the borough since April 2010, Jonas Vidals, 36, and wife Sonia, were threatened with hate speech as they returned to their Port Richmond residence on Saturday, September 17, at 11:45 p.m. Jonas and Sonia Vidals, who stated that they traveled together due to the recent surge of bias attacks on the island, allege that three individuals in a nearby apartment building shouted anti-Mexican and anti-Latino slurs, as well as threatened them with physical harm if they did not leave the area. The incident is being further investigated by the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force.

The last hate incident report prior to this attack on Jonas and Sonia Vidals, involved Christian Vasquez, 18, a Mexican-American youth and Staten Island resident. The charges against his alleged attacker, Derrian Williams, 17, were dismissed on Tuesday, September 14, with the emergence of new evidence. "These most recent incidents underscore the sad reality that the hate violence surge in Staten Island has not ended and that violence predicated on the hatred of someone because of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity cannot continue," said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project. AVP has been working with Staten Island community groups through the **I am Staten Island** coalition, as well as several local elected officials, to address these patterns of violence.

AVP encourages you to report any anti-LGBTQ bias, including hate speech and physical violence, to our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek the support you need.

In addition, AVP has also introduced [a new secure online form for reporting anti-LGBTQ bias incidents](#) that you have experienced or witnessed. AVP provides individual counseling, support groups, advocacy and referrals to LGBTQ survivors of hate violence. Please call **our 24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** for more information.

More information about the New York City Anti-Violence Project can be found at our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Please forward this e-mail to your friends and urge them to stay safe.