

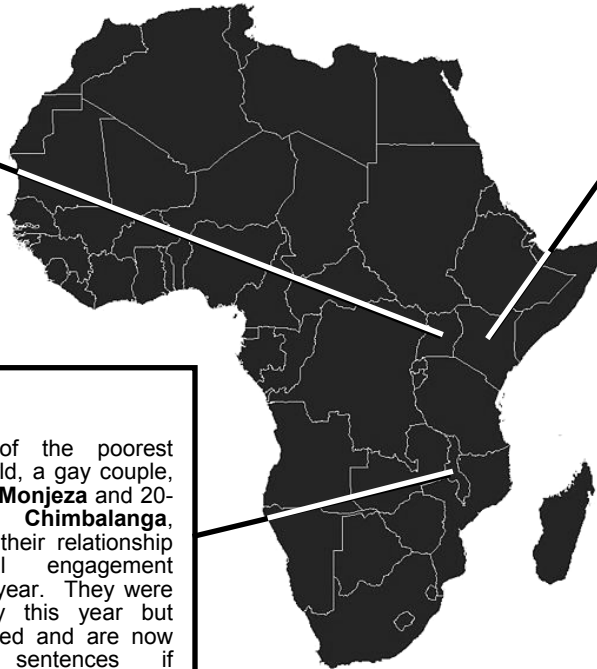
OPPOSE ANTI-GAY TERROR AROUND THE WORLD

May 17th -- **International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO)** -- is a day when people of good will bring the spotlight of world attention to the problem of anti-gay discrimination and violence and highlight those places where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people are suffering the most egregious human rights violations.

This year's IDAHO focus is three countries in Africa – **Uganda, Kenya** and **Malawi**. Purveyors of hate against gays in the United States have played a key, behind-the-scenes role promoting anti-gay legislation in at least one country, Uganda. Moreover, the anti-gay hate pumped out by American evangelicals here and missionaries abroad is simply a more “respectable” version of the hate which is at the root of anti-gay mob violence in Africa.

UGANDA

A bill currently receiving widespread support in the parliament would institute the death penalty for gay sex "repeat offenders," HIV-positive gays who have sex, and gays who have sex with minors or disabled people. In addition, Ugandan citizens who fail to report homosexual activity in 24 hours would face a penalty of up to three years in prison.



KENYA

In February a mob of vigilantes in the eastern part of the country raided a house where a falsely rumored gay wedding was supposedly taking place. Christian and Muslim leaders, along with radio talk-show hosts, stoked the hysteria from their churches and mosques, urging new mobs to form to “flush out” gays and lesbians, and take the law into their own hands.

MALAWI

In Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world, a gay couple, 26-year-old **Steven Monjeza** and 20-year-old **Tiwonge Chimbalanga**, publicly celebrated their relationship in a traditional engagement ceremony late last year. They were preparing to marry this year but instead were arrested and are now facing 14-year sentences if convicted.

Gay sex is illegal in 36 African countries, with prison sentences ranging from a few months to up to 15 years. In Mauritania, Sudan, and parts of Nigeria it is punishable by death.

But human rights activists in Africa and abroad are fighting back. Bishop Desmond Tutu, the great South African human rights activist, recently said, ***“If God, as they say, is homophobic, I wouldn't worship that God.”***

Homophobia is a “crime against humanity...and every bit as unjust” as apartheid.

“We struggled against apartheid in South Africa, supported by people the world over, because black people were being blamed and made to suffer for something we could do nothing about; our very skins...It is the same with sexual orientation.”

***Please join us on International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO)
as we call attention to the problem of anti-LGBT hate and violence around the world:***

5:30 PM ~ MONDAY, MAY 17

IN FRONT OF MILLENNIUM PARK

CORNER OF MONROE STREET & MICHIGAN AVENUE, CHICAGO

Sponsored by the Gay Liberation Network (www.GayLiberation.net), Courage Nigeria (<http://www.couragenigeria.org>) and the Coalition for Justice and Respect. This event is part of a week-long series of events, the Harvey Milk Week of Action. For more information email LGBTliberation@aol.com go to <http://chicagomilkweek.wordpress.com/>