

options for killing gays: pushing them off a cliff or forcing them to jump from a tall building.

Forcing them to lie in a hole in the ground while a wall is knocked down on them "was deemed closest to recommendations in the Hadiths, the apocryphal comments by Mohammed on Allah's teachings," the *Post* said. "But because many victims survived the punishment, the reclusive Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, decided a bulldozer would crush their bodies as well."

In 1999, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors detailed at least six cases in which Afghan gays had been crushed purposefully by falling walls.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

Gays staged a protest inside the World Conference Against Racism on Sept. 5 in Durban.

Among other things, they were upset about a vote excluding the International Lesbian and Gay Association from participation in the gathering. Police moved the protesters from inside the International Conference Center to the street outside.

An ILGA spokesperson noted that the full name of the gathering was the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Other Related Intolerances. Sexual orientation, she said, is certainly a "related intolerance."

ILGA was excluded from the gathering by a 43-43 vote during an organizing session July 30 in Geneva. A total of 27 other nations abstained from the vote, and 80 were not present.

IDS is now the nation's No. 1 killer, accounting for 40 percent of all deaths among people between 15 and 49 years old, the Medical Research Council reported Sept. 16. One in nine South Africans is believed to be HIV-positive.

#### BELARUS

About 300 gay men and lesbians marched Sept. 7 in Minsk even though the 2000 parade, the nation's first, was shut down by police. Organizers said they were allowed to proceed this year only because many foreign journalists were in the capital city to cover the Sept. 9 presidential election.

The parade ended with an hourlong rally in front of President Alexander Lukashenko's residence. Activists from Western Europe who planned to attend the Pride festivities were denied visas to enter Belarus, organizers said.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

The International Third Position, a right-wing political party, is flooding Newcastle, England, with anti-gay hate literature, the *Evening Chronicle* reported Sept. 14.

Hundreds of the brochures have been distributed, and "they plan to send another 100,000 of the sick leaflets to houses throughout the region," the newspaper said. The literature encourages citizens to join a campaign to ban gay sex.

Party spokesman Colin Jeffries told the paper: "The North East [of England] is one of the areas where we get the most support because there are a lot of working-class people there who share our beliefs.... We handed out copies of our magazine, *Voice of St. George*, before the England vs. Albania game at St. James' Park, and they went down a treat."

A group of mothers is organizing in Edinburgh, Scotland, to stamp out "cottaging," the British term for having sex in public restrooms, *EdinburghNews.com* reported Sept. 13. The partner of one of the women claims to have been groped by a group of men

as he relieved himself in a loo at Abbeyhill and London Road.

"I only nipped into the toilet after I got off the bus for a quick pee," James Ferguson said. "When I went inside there were about five young men hanging around. They behaved in a very aggressive way towards me, and one said something about me being fresh meat. The next thing I knew one of them had his hand on my bottom. I admit that I lost my temper, and I warned them to stay away. There was a bit of an argument. It turned nasty, and I ended up chasing one down the street to try and make a citizens arrest.... I'm sick of people like this hanging about."

Ferguson's partner, Julie Stevens, said she and other mums from the area are complaining to police and officials and might picket cruises.

A cottaging "insider" told the newspaper that most of the men who cause trouble are married to women. "They are often more problematic than those who are openly gay, acting in a more aggressive way," he said.

Rock star Elton John will not fly on U.S. airlines unless an armed guard is on board and the cockpit has been sealed, Britain's *The Sun* reported Sept. 15.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks "will change the way we live our lives," he said. "Flying won't be the same. You'll be looking over your shoulder all the time. It is evil and devastating. They should have armed guards on planes, and they should seal the cockpits. That's the only way people will fly. I know I wouldn't get on an American airline unless it had an armed guard."

John urged people who are angry about the attacks not to lash out at Muslims in general.

"The worst thing that could happen would be a knee-jerk reaction against Muslim people around the world," he said. "Most of them are peace-loving, but you've got factions of crazy people who want this war in the name of religion. They're just scumbags. I don't think there is a solution. It's religious hatred."

#### PORTUGAL

A participant in Portugal's *Big Brother 3* television reality show came out Sept. 4.

The group was talking about significant others, and contestant Ricardo said, "My girlfriend is a boy." Messages posted on the Internet site [www.tvi.iol.pt](http://www.tvi.iol.pt) have been mostly supportive of his revelation.

"Ricardo is 24 years old, very straight-acting but sweet at the same time," *PortugalGay.pt* said. "He worked in a call center and shares an apartment with his boyfriend. He came out to his family and friends when he was a teen-ager." JM

Compiled by REX WOCKNER, who has reported for the gay press since 1985. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Drake University and started his career as a radio reporter.



Ricardo



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