



Gay prisoners assemble for roll call at the concentration camp in Buchenwald, Germany

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with AIDS are sick of the national program's failed promises to provide HIV medications. Larrain and other officials continue to pledge that the drugs, to be purchased from a company that markets generics, will be available soon.

Prior to the ceremonies, activists marched from the Central Plaza to the National Cathedral, attracting heavy media coverage.

GERMANY

Germany's Parliament gave final approval Dec. 15 to a \$610,000 monument to commemorate gay victims of the Nazis.

About 50,000 gays were persecuted by the Nazis, and approximately 15,000 were sent to concentration camps, where most of them died. The memorial will be erected in Berlin's Tiergarten park.

"Homosexual victims of the Nazi regime were mostly shut out of Germany's culture of remembrance in the past. That is now over," said openly gay member of Parliament Volker Beck, according to the British Broadcasting Corp.

The construction of the monument was supported by the Greens and the Social Democrats. It was opposed by the Christian Democrats.

NEPAL

Police officers viciously beat two gay men Dec. 6 in Kathmandu, the International Lesbian and Gay Association reported.

Jag Bahadur Lama, 28, and Mani Lama, 20, were attacked near Ratna Park, first by hoodlums, then by officers from a passing van. The police reportedly put the couple inside the vehicle and kicked them and bashed them with rifle butts for an hour, then drove them to a barracks, beat them further and forced them to fellate numerous officers.

After about two hours at the barracks, the

couple were tied up, blindfolded, put back in a van and dumped in the street near Nepal's largest temple, Pashupatinath, ILGA said. The Nepalese gay group Blue Diamond Society said such attacks are not uncommon and urged activists worldwide to complain to Nepalese diplomats.

PERU

Peruvian Prime Minister Beatriz Merino was fired Dec. 12 by President Alejandro Toledo amid rumors that she might be a lesbian.

Peru's prime minister is appointed, not elected. Toledo also fired four other Cabinet ministers.

Merino, who says she is heterosexual, angered Toledo by telling reporters that one of her political enemies, Congressman Luis Solari, was spreading rumors that she was gay.



A Peruvian politician allegedly spread rumors that ousted Prime Minister Beatriz Merino is a lesbian

ARGENTINA

Argentina's Chamber of Deputies banned anti-gay discrimination Dec. 4, following 19 years of lobbying by the Argentine Homosexual Community and other organizations.

Anti-discrimination Law 23,592 was rewritten to read, "These, among others, are considered discriminatory: acts and omissions motivated by reasons of race, ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, ideology, political or union-related opinion, sex, gender, gender identity or its expression, sexual orientation, age, civil sta-

tus, family responsibility, work or occupation, physical characteristics, psychological capacity, economic position or social condition."

"This is a historic step in the recognition of the rights of GLTTB people in the entire nation," the Argentine Homosexual Community said in a statement.

JAPAN

The southern Japanese city of Miyakonojo, population 130,000, banned discrimination against gay, lesbian, bi and trans people Dec. 19.

Following heated debate, the City Assembly passed the measure by a vote of 13-12. Miyakonojo, located in Miyazaki Prefecture, is about 600 miles southwest of Tokyo.

AUSTRALIA

Prime Minister John Howard is strenuously opposed to same-sex marriage.

"I don't support gay marriages being given the same legal and community status as a traditional marriage," he told *The West Australian* newspaper Dec. 8. "I believe traditional marriage is one of the benchmark institutions of our society, and I hold that view very strongly.

"Even if you produced an opinion poll tomorrow that showed me 80 percent of the Australian community disagreed with me, I would still hold that view," he said. "I don't alter my views on issues like that according to polling, but frankly I would expect that a lot of people would agree with me. But as to whether it's a majority view or not, I've never tested it, and frankly I don't intend to."

Members of the Legislative Assembly in Australia's Northern Territory can now take their partners with them on overseas trips at taxpayer expense, the territorial Remuneration Tribunal ruled Dec. 9. The tribunal redefined a de facto spouse as a "person who is not married to the member but is in a marriage-like relationship with the member."

BANGLADESH

In a groundbreaking decision Dec. 9, Australia's High Court overruled the Immigration Department, the Refugee Review Tribunal, the Federal Court and the Full Court of the Federal Court to revive the asylum claim of two gay men from Bangladesh.

The unnamed couple had been stoned, whipped and targeted with a *fatwa* in their home nation, they claimed. In rejecting the asylum request, the review tribunal had argued that if the men kept quiet about their sexuality, they would suffer no ill treatment in Bangladesh.

But the High Court declared: "The tribunal effectively broke the genus of 'homosexual males

in Bangladesh' into two groups—discreet and nondiscreet homosexual men in Bangladesh. By doing so, the tribunal fell into jurisdictional error that renders its decision of no force or effect."

The case was returned to the tribunal for a redetermination consistent with the High Court ruling.



Love Sees No Borders' Leslie Bulbuk (right), with her partner, Marta Donayre) praised Brazil's extension of immigration rights to same-sex couples

BRAZIL

The National Council on Immigration ruled Dec. 18 that the foreign partners of gay men and lesbians can immigrate to Brazil when the couple has entered into an official same-sex union recognized by a local, regional or national government abroad.

"Latin American countries are advancing towards full equality for same-sex couples much faster than the United States is," said Leslie Bulbuk, co-founder of the U.S.-based activist group Love Sees No Borders. "Ironically, none of these countries represents itself as the 'land of the free' with 'liberty and justice for all.'"

Bulbuk said Brazil is the 16th nation to extend immigration rights to same-sex couples. The others are Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

ITALY

Italy's Senate banned fertility treatment, egg donation, sperm donation and surrogacy Dec. 12 for everyone except heterosexual couples of childbearing age who live together.

The senators also banned freezing of embryos and simultaneous creation of more than three embryos and mandated that all three must be implanted. The vote was 169-92.

The measure, which passed the Chamber of Deputies earlier, imposes penalties of up to \$726,000 on violators. [E]

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.

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