



Alessandra Mussolini snapped at a drag queen on a television talk show.

Mussolini Granddaughter: Fascism Better Than Faggotry

Member of the European Parliament Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of the late Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, said March 9 that it's "better to be fascist than a faggot."

The outburst occurred during taping of the television talk show *Porta a Porta* when Mussolini was criticized by drag queen Vladimir Luxuria, who is running for Parliament.

MIDEAST/AFRICA

Rights Groups Criticize Nigeria

Sixteen human rights groups wrote to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on March 23 demanding he withdraw legislation that will criminalize gay relationships and same-sex marriage and ban gay organizations and activism.

They said the bill violates both the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

"The bill criminalizes public expressions of love and any defense of lesbian and gay rights, denying fundamental freedoms," said Scott Long, director of Human Rights Watch's gay rights program.

The measure has been approved by the Federal Executive Council and awaits action by the National Assembly.

It calls for five years' imprisonment for anyone who "goes through the ceremony of marriage with a person of the same sex," "performs, witnesses, aids or abets the ceremony of same-sex marriage" or "is involved in the registration of gay clubs, societies and organizations." It also criminalizes public displays of a "same-sex amorous relationship" and bans gay adoption.

The U.S. State Department also has denounced the bill, saying it "would restrict or prohibit citizens from assembling, organizing, holding events or rallies, and participating in ceremonies of religious union, based upon sexual orientation and gender identity."

"The freedoms of speech, association, expression, assembly and religion are long-standing international commitments and are universally recognized," the U.S. government said. "Nigeria, as a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, has assumed important obligations on these matters. We expect the government of Nigeria to act in a manner consistent with those obligations."

Gay sex is already illegal nationwide in Nigeria—and in several northern states ruled by Islamic Sharia law, it is punishable with stoning. Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation, with 130 million residents.

Amnesty Adopts Jailed Cameroon Gays

Amnesty International USA said March 8 that it considers eight men and a 17-year-old boy who are being tried in Cameroon on charges of practicing homosexuality to be prisoners of conscience. The organization mobilized its members to petition for the detainees' release.

"These defendants are being held unjustly solely on the basis of their alleged sexual orientation," said Michael Heflin of Amnesty's gay rights program. "Additionally, we fear that they are in grave danger of being subjected to intrusive medical examinations that would amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment."

The High Court trial began in late February. If found guilty, the individuals could face five years in prison and a \$350 fine.

They were arrested at a nightclub in the capital, Yaoundé, in May 2005 and have been jailed since, in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions with inadequate food, Amnesty said.

Cameroon bans gay sex under Article 347 of its Penal Code.

ASIA/PACIFIC

South Korea to OK Gays in the Military

South Korea's Ministry of Defense will lift its ban on gays in the military in April, the *Chosun Ilbo* newspaper reported.

The decision follows a recommendation by the National Human Rights Commission that the forces eliminate anti-gay discrimination and prejudice. Under the new policy, the military will not out gay members of the armed forces—and anyone who comes out voluntarily will receive special supervision to protect his or her human rights, personal life and living situation, the report said.

New Zealand Gays Will Be Allowed to Donate Sperm

New Zealand's largest fertility service is dropping its ban on sperm donations by gay men.

After consultation with the nation's Human Rights Commission, which was investigating Fertility Associates' rejection of a gay donor, the agency decided it will treat gays' sperm the same as straights' sperm—testing it for HIV and hepatitis B and C.

Gays Form Organization in Hanoi

The gay organization Light House was formed in Hanoi, Vietnam, in late February, the *Thanh Nien* newspaper reported. It is funded by Family Health International and operates within the city's HIV and STD center.

It has 25 members, the report said. For more information call 011-84-4-736-6653.

AMERICAS

Gay Film Wins Canadian Awards

The Quebec gay film *C.R.A.Z.Y.* won 10 of Canada's Genie film awards March 13.

Jean-Marc Vallée's coming-of-age drama snagged awards for best film, director, actor, supporting actress and original screenplay along with technical honors.

The film, made for \$6 million, was the nation's top-grossing Canadian-made movie in 2005. 10

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.



C.R.A.Z.Y. director Jean-Marc Vallée shows off his hardware.

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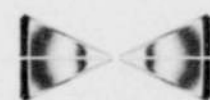
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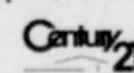
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