



Jamaican reggae singer Sizzla (Miguel Collins) cannot perform in the Cayman Islands because his lyrics target gays.

Bounty Killer, for similar reasons.

In 2004, Sizzla's tour of the United Kingdom was canceled after gay activists objected to lyrics such as "Burn the man who rides a man from behind" ("Fire fi di man dem weh go ride man behind") and "Shot a queer, my big gun went boom" ("Shot battyboy, my big gun boom").

In an interview at the time with BBC 1Xtra, Sizzla acknowledged "I sing 'fire burn for homosexuals'" and said, "They've got to apologize to God because they break God's law."

Gay activists in several nations also have targeted Jamaican dancehall singers Elephant Man, Vybz Kartel, Beenie Man, Buju Banton, T.O.K. and Capleton.

Argentina to Lift Military Gay Ban

Argentina will delete a law that makes it a crime for members of the military to engage in gay sex.

In late August, the national government will submit to Congress its plan to abolish the entire Military Justice Code and create a new military justice system. Among scores of changes, the new laws will not prohibit gay relationships.

The ban was "nonsense," said Col. Judge Advocate Manuel Lozano, a member of the legal commission designing the new system. "It's a matter of people's private lives."



Bill and Melinda Gates called for accelerated AIDS research at the 16th International AIDS Conference.

24,000 Attend International AIDS Conference

Some 24,000 delegates from 170 nations attended the 16th International AIDS Conference from Aug. 13 to 18 in Toronto.

In an opening session address, Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates and his wife, Melinda, co-chairs of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, called for increased focus on women, accelerated research on microbicides and stepped-up global prevention and treatment efforts. Other celebrity attendees included President Bill Clinton and actor Richard Gere.

"These are the things that I think we have to do as we leave here," Clinton said. "Money. Money spent more effectively. Prevention. More testing—not compulsory but voluntary and empowering. Lifting the status of women. Continuing the search for medical answers through microbicides and vaccines. Reaching the hard-to-reach population. Developing the infrastructure. And getting treatment out to every single soul who needs it."

More than 4,500 scientific abstracts were presented. Key areas of focus included vaccines, new types of treatment, pre-exposure prophylaxis (giving HIV drugs to HIV-negative individuals at high risk for infection) and the connection between HIV and tuberculosis. Much attention was paid to the vast disparities in prevention and treatment across the planet.

"There are still far too many instances where punitive laws, stigma, gender inequities and lack of access to needed prevention and care services conspire to fuel the HIV pandemic," said conference co-chairman Mark Wainberg, director of the McGill University AIDS Centre.

Julie Overbaugh of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle highlighted accumulating evidence that HIV-positive people who engage in unprotected sex risk becoming reinfected with a different strain of the virus that could be more aggressive or drug-resistant.

At the same time, Julio Montaner of the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS cited emerging evidence that HIV-positive people whose viral load is undetectable because of successful anti-retroviral therapy are "very unlikely" to transmit the virus during unprotected sex. Other scientists quickly responded that such transmission does happen nonetheless.

On Aug. 17, members of South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign physically attacked the South African government's exhibit booth, which

suggested garlic, olive oil, lemon and beets are HIV treatments. They chanted, "Fire Manto now."

South African Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang has been under sustained fire from activists for several years for promoting unorthodox HIV "treatments," suggesting that standard HIV drugs are poisonous and questioning whether HIV is the cause of AIDS.

About one-seventh of South Africa's 47 million citizens are believed to be HIV-positive. **JO**

REX WOCKNER 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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Mr. Bernstein was the national vice president of PFLAG from 1988-1995.

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