

**MIDEAST/AFRICA****WorldPride Parade Will Be Nov. 10**

The thrice-canceled Jerusalem WorldPride Parade is now scheduled to take place Nov. 10.

It was canceled last year because the police said they were preoccupied with a planned evacuation of Jews from Gaza. It was canceled twice this year, once because police said they were preoccupied with Israel's war against Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon, then again after police said they would be preoccupied with the Jewish New Year holiday season.

On Sept. 18, responding to a complaint by organizers, the High Court of Justice put its foot down, chose a date, told the police to cooperate and ordered the city to support the event with funding.

WorldPride, which was last held six years ago in Rome, is licensed by InterPride, the International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Coordinators.

**Ugandan Lesbians Outed**

Following up on its recent outing of 45 alleged gay men, the Ugandan tabloid newspaper *Red Pepper* outed 13 alleged lesbians Sept. 8.

They include two boutique owners, a basketball player and the daughters of a former member of Parliament and a prominent sheik.

"To rid our motherland of the deadly vice, we are committed to exposing all the lesbos in the city," the newspaper said, inviting readers to "send more names" of the "lesbin [sic] in your neighborhood."

Activists said the outing campaigns will lead to loss of jobs, homes, family and friends. Gay sex is illegal in Uganda under Penal Code articles 140, 141 and 143. The punishment for "carnal knowledge against the order of nature" is up to life in prison.

In 1999, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said of gays: "These few individuals [who became known] were either ignored or speared and killed by their parents. They wouldn't just go and wed another man publicly."

He also said: "I have told the [Criminal Investigations Department] to look for homosexuals, lock them up and charge them. Even the Holy Bible spells it out clearly that God created Adam and Eve as wife and husband, but not men to marry fellow men."

**Anti-Gays March in South Africa**

Thousands of Christians marched in several South African cities Sept. 16 against the government's plan to pass a civil union bill that would give same-sex couples the same rights as married people.

The marches were organized by the African Christian Democratic Party, which wants to see the constitution amended to "protect" traditional marriage.

The civil union bill was introduced in response to a Constitutional Court ruling that gave legislators until Dec. 1 to end the Marriage Act's discrimination against same-sex couples. If lawmakers do not take satisfactory action by that date, the court said the Marriage Act automatically will be construed to allow same-sex marriage. It is unclear

if the proposed "separate but equal" civil unions will satisfy the court.

**ASIA/PACIFIC****Indian Celebrities, Dignitaries Call for Legal Gay Sex**

More than 100 Indian authors, actors, filmmakers, journalists, academics, lawyers and others issued an open letter Sept. 16 calling for legalization of gay sex.



**Booker scholar Arundhati Roy has joined more than 100 Indian dignitaries in a call to legalize gay sex.**

led by writer Vikram Seth, the group called the 145-year-old ban "archaic and brutal."

They said it has been used to "persecute, blackmail, arrest and terrorize sexual minorities" and "has spawned public intolerance and abuse, forcing tens of millions of gay and bisexual women and men to live in fear and secrecy, at a tragic cost to them and their families."

The law also has been utilized by authorities to scuttle HIV prevention activities, they noted.

The signatories included Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen and Booker prize winner Arundhati Roy.

Known as Section 377, the statute punishes "carnal intercourse against the order of nature" with up to 10 years in prison.

In February, the Supreme Court remanded a case seeking to overturn the law back to the Delhi High Court, which had dismissed it on a technicality. The high court ordered that the case be considered on its merits and that the Delhi court rule on the law's constitutionality. A hearing is set for October.

**Gay Flag Flies Over Taipei City Hall**

City officials raised the rainbow flag Sept. 17 over Taipei City Hall to mark the launch of the seventh annual "LGBT Civil Rights Movement-Queer-Friendly Taipei," *The Taipei Times* reported.

The festival, hosted by the city's Department of Civil Affairs, aims to break down stereotypes and increase gay visibility and cultural diversity.

The gay community staged a parade and a mass "wedding" ceremony Sept. 30. For more information visit [www.lgbttaipei.net](http://www.lgbttaipei.net). 10

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