



Although gay sex is illegal in Singapore, U.S. Christian singers Jason and deMarco were given permission to play a show there after insisting that their focus was HIV prevention and education.

quoted Ettlbrick as saying, "This is a stunning victory for human rights and a reminder of the power of global protest."

In the e-mail, Long said: "Announcing publicly how international pressure has swayed Iranian authorities often backfires and makes different factions in the confusion of Iranian politics determined to show that international pressure hasn't swayed them. Saying a 'homosexual' had been pardoned very possibly didn't help."

Gay sex is punishable with the death penalty in Iran.

"We should not be speculating willfully that—though he may be innocent of one crime—he's guilty, before Iranian law, of another," Long said. "What is the benefit in that? How does that help him? ...Please, please, think before acting, and let us not put our egos and our identity politics before a young man's life."

In an interview, IGLHRC communications coordinator Hossein Alizadeh responded that all of the group's actions in Moulloodzadeh's case were coordinated with, and approved by, Moulloodzadeh's attorney, Saeed Eghbali.

The group has become increasingly vocal in the past six months about Iran's ongoing executions of teens and men accused of engaging in sodomy, even though in nearly all the cases that have been publicized, the individuals were accused of other crimes as well, such as rape.

The organization has said it suspects that other charges often are tacked on to sodomy cases to prevent the public outrage that would accompany

executions carried out solely for the crime of consensual adult gay sex. The group also believes executions solely for gay sex are taking place out of the public eye.

"Our suspicions [are] that their current practice really is to rid society of lesbians and gay men," the organization said in July.

Kyrgyzstan Sees First Gay Pamphlet

The first-ever Kyrgyz-language pamphlet on gay issues has hit the streets of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Synat Sultanalieva of the local lesbian, bisexual and transgender group Labrys said 5,000 copies of the brochure were printed.

It "aims at providing objective and open information about homosexuals and calls for an understanding attitude toward them," she said. "The cases when such people are subjected to discrimination and beatings are not far apart. In our country the plight of those outside of traditional sexual orientation does not seem to touch anyone. They are considered outcasts."

Sultanalieva hopes the pamphlet will educate society on gays' lives, inner thoughts and feelings, and sorrows. Labrys head Anna Kirey told the network that open homosexuals are rare in Kyrgyzstan because gay people "are afraid of those surrounding them."

U.S. Gay Singers Perform in Singapore

U.S. Christian singers Jason and deMarco, who are a gay couple, received permission to perform Dec. 13 in Singapore.

The decision was a surprise given that the government has been on a gay-ban spree this year, prohibiting a gay photo exhibition, a gay story-reading event, a forum on gay legal issues and a speech by Metropolitan Community Churches founder Troy Perry. Gay sex is illegal in Singapore and punishable with two years in prison.

But Jason and deMarco, who were banned as recently as 2005, got a green light this time after organizers convinced the Media Development Authority that "the aim of the concert is AIDS education and HIV prevention...targeted at the high-risk groups," a spokesperson for Media Development Authority said. **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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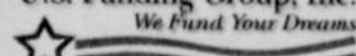
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