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## world

### ASIA/PACIFIC

#### Gay Man Elected to Nepal Parliament

Well-known gay activist Sunil Babu Pant, 35, has been elected to Nepal's 601-member Constituent Assembly, which will draft the nation's new constitution and function as parliament during the drafting process.

Pant was not elected directly but was chosen by the Communist Party of Nepal (United) as one of its representatives when the party received enough votes to secure five proportional representation seats in the assembly.



Gay activist Sunil Babu Pant, who was elected to Nepal's parliament, hopes the gay flag will continue flying high.

"We are honored to send Pant as our representative," General Secretary Ganesh Shah told *The Times of India*. "We hope it will improve the lives of a people who are the most repressed in Nepal, disowned both by society and their own families."

In a note posted on a gay activism mailing list, Pant said: "The support and solidarity I have from locally and abroad will make my job easier, and [I] hope the flag of the LGBT communities will continue flying high in Nepal and in other countries, too. Friends and activists like you from all over the world have [been] my source of inspiration."

#### Tel Aviv to Erect Monument to Gays Persecuted by Nazis

An official monument in memory of the gays and lesbians persecuted and murdered by the Nazis will be erected in Tel Aviv's Meir Garden,

according to Ynet News. The report said the Third Reich killed tens of thousands of homosexuals and persecuted a quarter of a million.

The project was spearheaded by openly gay Tel Aviv City Council member Itai Pinkas with strong support from Mayor Ron Huldai. According to Ynet, there are similar monuments in Berlin; Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Copenhagen, Denmark; and Sydney, Australia.

#### Court Says Hong Kong Regulator Interfered with Freedom of Speech

Hong Kong's Broadcasting Authority wrongly restricted freedom of speech when it reprimanded Radio Television Hong Kong for airing a program called *Gay Lover*, High Court Judge Michael Hartmann ruled May 8.

The authority claimed the program lacked balance.

Hartmann disagreed, saying: "RTHK did no more than faithfully record the fears, hopes, travails and aspirations of persons who happened to be gay. It did so faithfully, in an unprejudiced manner."

He added: "It is now recognized in our law that the prohibition against discrimination on the basis of sex refers not only to gender but also to sexual orientation."

Broadcasting Authority rules require programs on controversial topics to be impartial, but Hartmann said the authority should not have embraced the discriminatory notion that homosexuality may be offensive to some viewers.

#### Bounty Killer Banned from Guyana

Authorities in the South American nation of Guyana have banned Jamaican singer Bounty Killer from performing there because his lyrics promote violence, including against gay people. The singer has experienced protests and concert cancellations in Europe for the same reasons.

His lyrics include: "Bun a fire pon a kuh pon mister fagoty.... Poop man fi drown a dat a yawd man philosophy.... You know we need no promo to rub out dem homo.... Mi ready fi go wipe out this fag wid pure laser beam."

In April, iTunes deleted tracks by fellow Jamaican dancehall singers Buju Banton, Elephant Man and T.O.K. from its North American service because their songs promote violence toward, or murder of, gays.

Banton's 1992 hit "Boom Bye Bye," for ex-

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