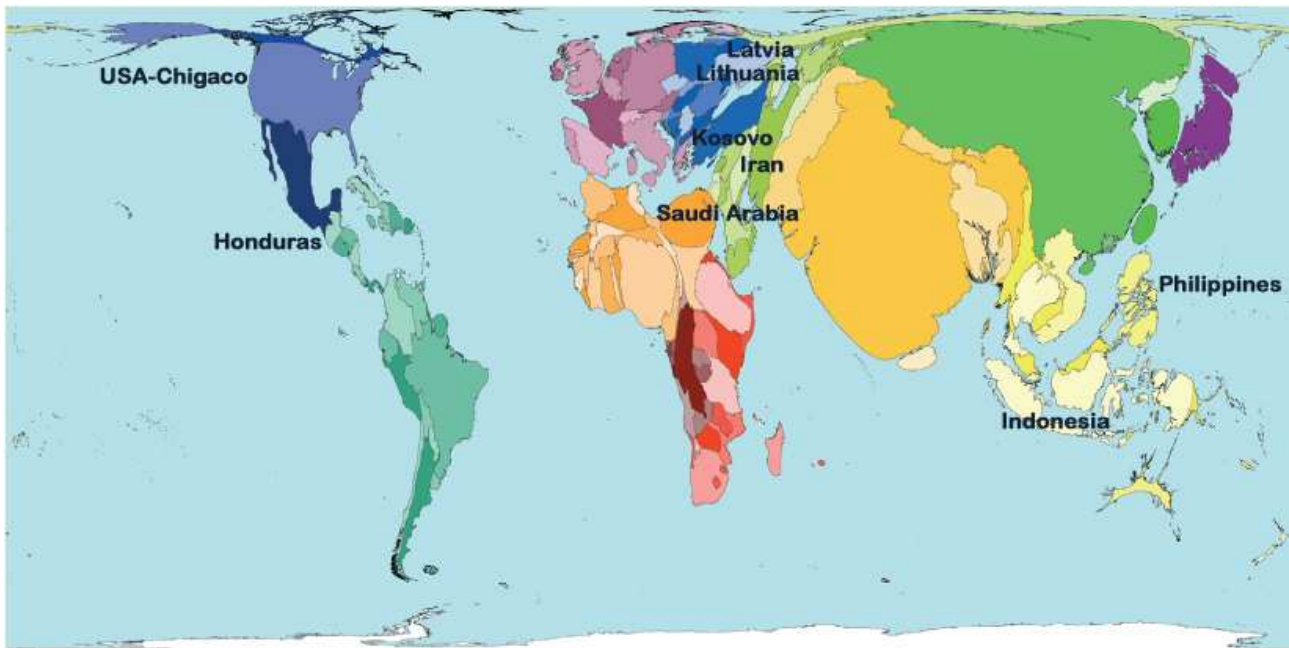


## Annual report 2007 Queeramnesty



### Regional main focuses in 2007

map: [www.worldmapper.org](http://www.worldmapper.org) – Size relative to population in 2000

## ACTIONS IN THE MANDATE AREA

### **Honduras: Police brutality against LGBT activist (April 2007)**

Donny Reyes, activist of the LGBT organization “Arcoiris” has been captured and abused by police officers on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2007. At the police office, he has been raped and beaten for multiple times by other prisoners – apparently encouraged by the police officers. Amnesty International demanded for a quick and independent investigation of that case, for an immediate end of such deceits and no further interruptions or hindrance in Arcoiris’ activities.

### **Latvia: Protection against encroachments at Pride (May 2007)**

On the occasion of Pride 2005 and the meetings, which should substitute the planned Pride 2006, the participators have become victims of violence from counter-demonstrators. Despite being demanded in advance, no police force was present to intervene. The urgent action demanded the police to protect LGBT people, protection of their rights of freedom of assembly and suitable measures for protection against discrimination and violence.

### **Iran: Imprisonment of men in women's clothing (June 2007)**

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 87 men were arrested at a private party in the Iranian province Isfahan. The 17 men which were wearing womens' clothes at the time of their arrest have been held in arrest. They have been accused of homosexuality and drinking alcohol. Eye witnesses report the men were massively abused and injured. Amnesty International recognizes drinking alcohol is prohibited in Iran, but wanted more specific reasons for the detention and an investigation of the police abuses.

### **Kosovo: LGBT human rights activist (June 2007)**

The leader of a LGBT organization in Kosovo has been massively threatened for several times. Known assaults against other gays show, that the threats have to be taken serious. But the police officers refused to do investigations while playing down the threats. The petition called upon the police minister to start investigations immediately and to guarantee the safety of LGBT activists.

### **Indonesia: Gays tortured by police (July 2007)**

In Banda Rayas, two men broke into the room of two gay men in the night of January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007 and hit them. The police, who has been called, abused them as well. The next day, one of the two men was forced to sign a written promise, not to continue any homosexual actions. After that, the two men were released. Although the two involved policemen have been arrested already, Amnesty International demanded an independent investigation of the incident.

### **Philippines: Protection against discrimination (November 2007)**

A law reform in the senate demanded an explicit and extensive protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or sexual identity. Amnesty International supported this intention with a petition.

### **USA: Chicago police brutality (November 2006)**

As part of the campaign against police brutality on LGBT in the USA, we wrote a petition to the authorities and collected signatures at the end of 2006. Within the LGBT-community especially transgender, members of ethnic minorities, young people and migrants suffer from abuses. Most of those crime acts are not prosecuted.

### **Saudi Arabia: Flogging for sexual intercourse (November 2007)**

The urgent action demands the immediate stop of flogging two men, which have been sentenced because of sexual intercourse. Amnesty declares people prosecuted just because of their sexual orientation as prisoners of conscience. Flogging is torture and fails to comply with international law.

### **Iran: Execution of minor „offenders“ (November 2007)**

Marwan Moloudzadeh, a 21 year-old Iranian Kurd, has been accused of sexual intercourse with a 13 year-old boy. Allegedly he committed the crime when he was 13 years old. In summer 2007, he has been sentenced to death because of this "offence". The conviction is a scandal, especially because Marwan Moloudzadeh was a minor to Iranian law at the time of the "offence".

### **Lithuania: Protection of freedom of expression**

The petition demands, that freedom of expression and freedom of assembly should apply for LGBT as well. The authorities have prohibited a bus tour against discrimination and interdicted the raising of rainbow flags.

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS**

### **[www.queeramnesty.ch](http://www.queeramnesty.ch)**

Again, this year, our website was updated by Hannes. The website gives an insight in our activities and actions. The Queeramnesty team thanks the webmaster warmly for his engagement.

### **Christopher Street Day in June**

At this year's Christopher Street Day we were present with an information stand and collected signatures for the then current petitions (Kosovo, Iran). We printed T-shirts with the slogan "Menschenrechte für alle" ("Human rights for all") and our internet address in order to be noticed in public. Both the Christopher Street Day and the collection of signatures for the petitions was a great success and we are looking forward to next year's Christopher Street Day.

### **Documentations**

To point out our activities and the situation of LGBT worldwide, several documentations have been developed last year. For example, we have a Power-Point-presentation, which summarizes our activities briefly. A detailed summary concerning LGBT-right worldwide is in progress.

### **Training day GLL („Gleichgeschlechtliche Liebe Leben“; „Live same-sex love“)**

GLL organizes school visits, where students are confronted with the subject of LGBT. At the annual training day we had the opportunity to hold a brief introduction concerning "Muslim and homosexuality".

### **Group for International Solidarity together with LOS (Lesbian Organization of Switzerland) and Pink Cross (Swiss gay organization)**

Our participation at the meetings and activities of the Group for International Solidarity together with to the two big umbrella organizations LOS and Pink Cross is – in the broadest sense - public relations as well. The coordination of our activities with these organizations concerning LGBT rights is important.

### **„GayMigs“ – support for gays with immigrant background**

In collaboration with HAZ (**H**omosexuelle **A**rbeitsgruppen **Z**ürich; Homosexual working groups Zurich) with which we successfully launched a network of specialist departments (public and NGO's) such as asylum care, neighbourhood centres, etc for gays with migration background around Zurich. In June 2007, a GayMigs-flyer has been published.

# AMNESTY INTERNAL WORK

## Cooperation in Switzerland

Queeramnesty resolved to cooperate with other Amnesty-groups more intensively. A first meeting with the Amnesty-group Zug was a great success. We introduced ourselves and our activities with a presentation and discussed the problems concerning LGBT. In future, we will perform actions and events together if possible.

## International cooperation

The coordinator has been present in the coordination team during the past two years; the most important objectives of this committee are the representation of the LGBT issue to the international secretary and the coordination between the different LGBT-groups within the country sections of Amnesty International. Because of the differences within the institutional organization in the involved countries, we were not able to make big progress in international coordination. On the other hand, the LGBT subject got more attention in the international secretary. Several important actions, especially in Eastern Europe, have been launched. The campaign against police brutality in the USA was a success too.

## Germany

As always, we participated at the meeting of the German groups (MERSI - Human Rights and Sexual Identities) in November 2006. The most important agendas were the internals of the German groups and the nomination of the coordination responsibilities as well as the cooperation for a newsletter which was an important subject. Slava Bortnik, delegate of Amnesty International in Belarus, presented the situation of human rights work under difficult conditions in his home country.

## Redistribution of tasks

To optimize the organization of Queeramnesty, we held a workshop in September which's goal was to redistribute tasks and assignments of responsibilities. Several administrative tasks had been split and distributed to our active members. Our group speaker Hans Markus Herren should be disburdened and our processes should be more transparent as well as our appearance should be more clear. This especially to the profit of new members.

## Thanks to all those who supported us this year!

Our group has now about 300 members, 40 interested persons and 60 donators. Only with the continuous support from all those people our work is possible.

written by Alan David Sangines.  
translated by Ivo Braunschweiger.