Transgender Europe's Trans Murder Monitoring Project Reveals 226 Killings of Trans People in the Last 12 Months

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In total, since January 2008 the murders of 1,612 trans people have been reported. 226 of these reports are from the past 12 months.

The 16th International Transgender Day of Remembrance is being held on November 20th 2014. Since 1999 the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), on which those trans people who have been victims of homicide are remembered, takes place every November. The TDOR raises public awareness of hate crimes against trans people, provides a space for public mourning and honours the lives of those trans people who might otherwise be forgotten. Started in the USA, the TDOR is now held in many parts of the world. In the past, the TDOR took place in more than 180 cities in more than 20 countries in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceania.

Sadly, this year there are 226 trans persons to be added to the list to be remembered, mourned and honoured.

The Trans Murder Monitoring (TMM) project started in April 2009 and systematically monitors, collects, and analyses reports of homicides of trans people worldwide. Updates of the results, which have been presented in July 2009 for the first time, are published on the website of the Transrespect versus Transphobia Worldwide project two times a year in form of tables, name lists, and maps.

Every year in November, Transgender Europe provides a special update of the TMM results for the International Transgender Day of Remembrance so as to assist activists worldwide in raising public awareness of hate crimes against trans people. The TDOR 2014 update has revealed a total of 226 cases of reported killings of trans people from 1 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.

The update shows reports of murdered trans people in 28 countries in the last 12 months, with the majority from Brazil (113), Mexico (31), Honduras (12), the USA (10) and Venezuela (10). While Brazil and Mexico have the highest absolute numbers, the relative numbers show even more worrisome results for some countries with smaller population sizes such as Honduras.

Attached to this press release you can find a map, which demonstrates the absolute figures of reports found worldwide from October 1st 2013 to September 30th 2014.

The TDOR 2014 update reveals a total of 1,612 reported killings of trans people in 62 countries worldwide from January 1st 2008 to September 30th 2013. It is important to note that these cases are those that could be found through Internet research and through cooperation with trans organisations and activists. In most countries, data on murdered trans people are not systematically produced and it is impossible to estimate the numbers of unreported cases.

The alarming figures demonstrate once more that there is an urgent need to react to the violence against trans people and to seek mechanisms to protect trans people. Some international trans activists even started to

introduce the term ‘transcide’ to reflect the continuously elevated level of deadly violence against trans people on a global scale and a coalition of NGOs from South America and Europe started the “Stop Trans Genocide” campaign.

Cases have been reported from all major World Regions (Africa, Asia, Central and South America, Europe, North America, and Oceania), evoking an evermore gruesome picture, especially given the very partial knowledge we are able to gain in many places.

Throughout all six world regions, the highest absolute numbers have been found in countries with strong trans movements and trans or LGBT organisations that do a professional monitoring: Brazil (644), Mexico (177), Venezuela (83), Colombia (82), and Honduras (70) in Central and South America, the USA (100) in North America, Turkey (36) and Italy (27) in Europe, and India (37) and the Philippines (32) in Asia.

The close connection between the existence of strong trans movements and professional monitoring on the one hand, and highest absolute numbers of reports, on the other hand, point to a worrisome question: the question of unreported cases. Beside the need for mechanisms to protect trans people, this connection also shows the need for strong trans communities and organisations, which are capable of professional monitoring and reporting of violence against trans people. Furthermore this connection results in the fact, that the figures show only the tip of the iceberg of homicides of trans people on a worldwide scale.

More than 1,250 reported murders of trans people in Central and South America since 2008.

The new result update moreover reveals that in the last 81 months:

- **1,267 killings of trans people have been reported in Central and South America**, which account for 79 % of the globally reported murders of trans people since January 2008. In this region, there has been the strongest increase in reports and with 23 countries Central and South America is the best documented region.
- **138 killings** of trans people have been reported **in Asia** in 16 countries;
- **104 killings** of trans people have been reported **in North America**;
- **90 killings** of trans people have been reported **in Europe** in 13 countries;
- **9 killings** of trans people have been reported **in Africa** in 4 countries;
- **4 killings** of trans people have been reported **in Oceania** in 4 countries.

Attached to this press release you can find tables showing the details and a map, which demonstrates the absolute figures of reports found worldwide since January 2008.

While the documentation of killings of trans people is indispensable for demonstrating the shocking extent of human rights violations committed against trans people on a global scale, there is also a need for in-depth research of various other aspects related to the human rights situation of trans people. Therefore, Transgender Europe developed the Trans Murder Monitoring project into the **‘Transrespect versus Transphobia Worldwide’ research project (TvT).** TvT is a comparative, ongoing qualitative-quantitative research project, which provides an overview of the human rights situation of trans people in different parts of the world and develops useful data and advocacy tools for international institutions, human rights organisations, the trans movement and the general public. In November 2012 Transgender Europe published the TvT research report ‘TRANSRESPECT VERSUS TRANSPHOBIA WORLDWIDE – A Comparative Review of the Human-rights Situation of Gender-variant/Trans People‘, which discusses and contextualises the key findings of the TvT project.

If you have further questions or if you want to support the research project, please contact the TvT research team at research@transrespect-transphobia.org.