



**SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER**  
**CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL**

**VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER**

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**THE IMPACT OF GUNS ON WOMEN'S LIVES, COALITION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE,  
SUMMER 2005 NEWSLETTER**

A new report released on International Women's Day 2005 launched a global campaign to stop gun violence against women. The International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) members held public events in the US, Canada, Cambodia and Brazil to publicize the campaign. The report produced by IANSA, Amnesty International and Oxfam, highlights how a gun in the home makes a woman less safe:

- An attack with a gun is 12 times more likely to end in death than an attack with other weapons
- In South Africa, a woman is shot dead by a current or former partner every 18 hours
- In the US, a gun in the home increases the overall risk that someone in the household will be murdered by 41%, but increases the risk for women by 272%.
- In France and South Africa, one in three women killed by their husbands are shot. In the U.S., this rises to two in three women.
- Family killings are one category of homicides where women outnumber men as victims with the victim's partner or male relative the most likely murderer

The global campaign is a welcome development helping to raise awareness worldwide about gun violence tragedies in intimate relationships and their disproportionate impact on women.

**SEXUAL ABUSE IN DETENTION ELIMINATION ACT**

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, the California Senate and Assembly passed the Sexual Abuse in Detention Elimination Act (AB 550), taking the state's first major step toward becoming a national leader in the fight to end prisoner rape. "The passage of this law is a significant milestone for California, finally giving this all-too-common human rights violation the attention it deserves in our state," said Lovisa Stannow, Acting Executive Director of Stop Prisoner Rape (SPR), a Los Angeles-based national human rights organization.

AB 550 seeks to protect all inmates from sexual abuse while held in detention facilities operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The bill also establishes an Office of the Sexual Abuse in Detention Ombudsperson to monitor the prevention of and response to sexual abuse that occurs in CDCR facilities. AB 550 is specifically designed to assist California in complying with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003. PREA was the first-ever federal legislation addressing prisoner rape. It was passed unanimously by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in 2003. While there are few reliable statistics on prisoner rape, studies have estimated that one in five male inmates have been sexually abused, usually by another inmate. Rates for women, who are most likely to be abused by male staff, reach as high as one in four in some facilities. "We urge Governor Schwarzenegger to take the final step and sign this bill into law – as President Bush did with PREA – making this important legislative commitment a reality in California's corrections facilities," Stannow added.

## **JUSTICE SERVED? MURDER CONVICTIONS IN ARAUJO CASE BUT NO HATE CRIME**

On September 12, 2005, a California jury answered a prosecutor's call for accountability in the tragic death of Gwen Araujo and handed down murder convictions for Michael Magidson and Jose Merel. "We're happy with the two murder verdicts and are hopeful that the third verdict will come swiftly. Compared to too many other transgender murder cases, this jury clearly stated that Gwen's life was just as valued as any other," said Julie Dorf, founder of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. "They delivered murder verdicts as opposed to manslaughter or any other lesser verdict. I believe that other district attorneys around the country will take notice of this case."

After three months of testimony, the four-woman, eight-man jury took seven days of deliberations to find Magidson and Merel guilty of second degree murder in the October 2002 death of Gwen Araujo. They face mandatory sentences of 15 years to life. The third defendant, Jason Cazares, was free to go on \$1 million bail after jurors deadlocked on his conviction. Prosecutors have not yet indicated if they will retry him. 17-year-old Gwen Araujo was beaten, bound, and strangled by a group of four men who learned that she was biologically male. The Latina American was later dumped into a shallow grave.

"These verdicts are definitely a sign of progress, but the fact that the jury did not see this for the hate crime it obviously was means we still have a lot of work ahead of us," said Riki Wilchins, Executive Director of GenderPAC. "The public must realize the price many Americans pay for not meeting traditional masculine and feminine standards. Until they do so, teenagers like Gwen, especially those of color, will continue to be at risk." According to GenderPAC, at least 9 teens of color have been murdered since 2001 in attacks based on their gender expression or identity, including Native American Fred Martinez (17), and African Americans Brandie Coleman (18), Ukea Davis (18), Nireah Johnson (17), Stephanie Thomas (19), Nikki Nicholson (19), Sakia Gunn (15), and James Richardson (17). On November 18th prosecutors will announce their decision on a third trial for Cazares. Magidson will be sentenced on January 6; Merel's sentencing date will be set on October 28th.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MESSAGE FROM JENNIFER, OUTGOING OFFICE MANAGER

As some of you may already know, I am leaving SBRCC at the end of September. Although I am excited to move closer to family in Colorado, I will truly miss the people I have met in my short time here. I have been incredibly fortunate to have worked along side such dedicated individuals on work that benefits all human-kind. I wish you all well, and I will check in from time to time.

Best wishes, Jen

## MONTHLY ADVOCATE MEETING: OCTOBER 10, 2005 FROM 6 PM - 8 PM

Basics 101: During this month's meeting, we will refresh everyone's skills. We will review filling out suicide contracts and filling out call report forms more effectively. Please bring questions, possible scenarios, and all of your experience!

## GET INVOLVED IN TRAINING!

Are you interested in getting to know SBRCC's new volunteers? Do you enjoy sharing about your experiences as an Advocate? Would you like to give some words of wisdom to up-and-coming volunteers? If you answered "yes" to any of those questions, consider getting involved in the English Crisis Intervention Training. Opportunities for you to get involved include assisting trainees with in-person or phone roleplays and/or presenting in training on a relevant topic. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Heather as soon as possible at 963.6832 x28 or [heather@sbrcc.net](mailto:heather@sbrcc.net). Male, Female, and Bilingual Advocates are encouraged to participate.



**Happy Birthday to:**



- Sarah B. on October 12<sup>th</sup>
- Margarito R. on October 17<sup>th</sup>

