

حق زندگی برای همه :
هم-، دو- و دگرجنسگرا !

baraka, GAY HOMELAND FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

baraka and GHF announce vigil commemorating gay and lesbian victims of Iran's Ayatollah regime for 19 July 2007 in Cologne, Germany

The **Gay Homeland Foundation**, an organization dedicated to furtherance of a gay national movement and cultural progress of the gay-lesbian community, and **baraka**, an international self-organization group of gay, lesbian und bisexual immigrants in Cologne, have announced the first political demonstration commemorating all gay and lesbian victims of the Ayatollah regime in Iran in Cologne on 19 July 2007. A vigil is scheduled to begin at 17:30 at the "Memorial for Lesbian and Gay victims of National Socialism" near the Hohenzollern bridge on the left Rhine bank in Cologne, Germany.

RUBICON, Cologne's counseling center for gays and lesbians, is also supporting the event.

19 July 2007 is the anniversary of the 2005 execution of two homosexual teenagers, Mahmoud Asgari and Ayaz Marhoni, who were believed to be lovers and were denounced to the police by a family member.

Authorities later distributed official information suggesting that the two teenagers were executed because of a rape of a 13-year old boy. In Iran, such accusations are routinely applied against homosexuals to justify a death sentence, since the regular proof by four witnesses (as prescribed by Sharia) can not be realistically supplied.

The two executed teenagers will always remind us of the fate of many of our brothers and sisters in Iran who were tortured and murdered by the Ayatollah regime and its death squads.

In today's Iran, gays and lesbians still suffer the worst oppression and live in daily fear of denunciation. The country's harsh Islamic regime has declared a downright war against homosexuals, reminiscent of ethnic cleansing in its perfidy: Specially trained agents routinely entrap gay men in internet forums. In this atmosphere of constant fear, many commit suicide or undergo unnecessary sex-change operations.

The **Gay Homeland Foundation (GHF)** last year appealed to the international community to cease deporting gay and lesbian asylum-seekers to persecuting countries, and to consider instead the establishment of a self-administered territory for the gay and lesbian people.

Today, **GHF** and **baraka** urge everyone to remember that in this age of gay pride parades, pool parties and liberal lives for some, a large part of our people still lives in a state of daily fear of death, deprivation of any human dignity, and subject to the will and whim of the enemy. Let each of us consider this day whether we as a community are doing enough to protect our brethren from their tormentors.

418 words

CONTACT INFORMATION:

The **Gay Homeland Foundation** is an organization dedicated to furtherance of a gay national movement and cultural progress of the gay-lesbian community; the administrative center is located in Cologne, Germany. The Foundation is actively investigating the possibilities for establishment of self-administered GLBT settlements and organizing the LGBT community in a sovereign political entity.

For additional background material, please visit: <http://gayhomeland.org>

For further event information, please contact Viktor Zimmermann:

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baraka is an international self-organization group of gay, lesbian und bisexual immigrants in Cologne. The group meets every Friday at 18:00 in RUBICON (Rubensstr. 8-10, 50676 Cologne, Germany).

For additional background material, please visit: <http://baraka-online.info>

For further event information, please contact Jacek Marjanski:

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