

Media Release  
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## **LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS CALL FOR END TO KILLINGS**

**PHILIPPINE LGBT Hate Crime Watch and other human rights advocates denounced homophobic attacks as they rallied behind hate crime survivor Ricky Rivero, a high profile television director and actor, as he goes to the Quezon City trial court to press frustrated murder charges against his assailant, Hans Ivan Ruiz.**

**Reighben Labilles, spokesperson of the Hate Crime Watch, said the group is asking the public to keep a close watch on the case and denounce statements from the side of the accused that would imply that Ruiz committed the stabbing in self-defense against Rivero's alleged attempts to rape him.**

**Labilles further said that the tactic is called the gay panic defense and was used several times in the United States and Australia by defendants who tried to justify their violent behavior by making it appear that the gay victim approached or attacked the defendant sexually. Also known as the homosexual panic defense, the line defendant claims that he was in a state of temporary insanity triggered by alleged unwanted advances.**

**"The long string of unsolved murders against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Filipinos are definitely tied to this discredited alibi and if we allow this to set Rivero's assailant scot-free, we are serving a double dose of murder to the memories of all these victims," said Labilles.**

**Hate Crime Watch has documented 141 incidents that bear hallmarks of murder and extrajudicial executions since it started culling statistics from known media reports that date back to 1996. This year alone, 29 incidents have been noted, nearing the 2010 record of 34 incidents.**

**Labilles' group is advocating for legal and administrative measures to be taken by the government that would define hate crimes, punish the acts, and redress the survivors and victims of such crimes. In Congress, Gabriela and Bayan Muna filed separate resolutions calling the state to officially receive the statistics gathered and analyzed by the Hate Crime Watch and provide swift action on the cases.**

**Aside from legal measures, the group is also raising awareness among LGBT communities about the violence that can occur even if the assailant is an intimate partner, friend or family member. One of its aims is to develop an expansive, grassroots, inclusive and non-partisan community of individuals and organizations that advocates against anti-LGBT prejudice and the violence it causes.**

**"We have to find measures to put an end to this kind of crime," said Ladlad Partylist chairperson, Ms. Bemz Benedito. "Government should heed our call to fight these acts of brutality," Benedito added.**

**Hate Crime Watch is already investigating links between hate crimes, homophobia, transphobia, religious biases, and the culture of impunity.**