PERSECUTION OF HOMOSEXUALITY IN UGANDA

Photographic documentary by

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David Bahati's Anti-Homosexuality Bill was tabled in Ugandan Parliament in October 2009, and is currently before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of Parliament. The bill proposes that a new offence be created in Uganda named "aggravated homosexuality" which would be punishable as a capital offence. It would introduce the death penalty for homosexuals who practiced gay sex with people under 18, with disabled people, when the accused party is HIV-positive, or for those previously convicted of homosexuality-related offences. Homosexual acts are already illegal in Uganda and punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

The bill also includes provisions for Ugandans who engage in same-sex sexual relations outside of Uganda, asserting that they may be extradited for punishment back to Uganda, and includes penalties for individuals, companies, media organizations, or non-governmental organizations that support LGBT rights. Homosexuality is currently illegal in Uganda, as it is in many sub-Saharan African countries, punishable by incarceration in prison for up to 14 years. The proposed legislation in Uganda, however, has been noted by several news agencies to be heavily influenced by American evangelical Christians.

Photo 0**1** -
Portrait of a closeted homosexual in Uganda. With the perspective of the anti-homosexuality bill, the gay community has lived in fear for their lives and many have taken actions to protect themselves and become increasingly isolated. Kampala.

Photo 0**2** -

Giles Muhame, the 22 year-old managing editor of the Ugandan newspaper Rolling Stone, points to the the face of David Kato, a prominent Ugandan gay rights campaigner. Last month David Kato was beaten to death in his home near Kampala only weeks after winning a lawsuit against the Ugandan Rolling Stone. In October 2010, under the headline "Hang Them", the tabloid published the names, addresses and photographs of a dozen public figures, including Kato, who it believed to be gay. Uganda's gay population now face renewed suppression in a country where homosexual acts already carry a punishment of 14 year's jail. Some religious and political leaders are pushing for the death penalty for people who have gay sex with disabled people, under-18s, or while being HIV positive. Kampala.

Photo 0**3** -

A Ugandan worshiper wears a banner with homophobic message:" homosexual is evil" during an anti-gay rally held by religious and political leaders who are fighting homosexuality at Christianity Focus Centre in Kampala's biggest slum, Kisenyi.

Photo 0**4** -
Kampala, Uganda - David Bahati (center), the author of the anti-homosexuality bill is blessed by Pastor Martin Ssempa (R), Sheikh Badruh (L), and other religious leaders who are fighting homosexuality at an anti-gay rally at Christianity Focus Centre in Kampala's biggest slum, Kisenyi.

David Bahati, a Ugandan politician member of the ruling National Resistance Movement and MP in the Ugandan parliament, came to international attention in October 2009 after introducing the Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill as a Private Member's Bill on 13 October proposing that a new offence be created in Uganda named "aggravated homosexuality" which would be punishable as a capital offence.

Photo 0**5** -

Demonstrators during an anti-gay rally in the industrial city of Jinja, east of the capital Kampala. They carry banners and signs with homophobic messages: *"Yes we can say no 2 Sodomy".* Some religious and political leaders have garnered support for the anti-homosexuality bill by holding numerous and hateful anti-gay rallies. Each day that no decisive action is taken to throw out the bill, it encourages homophobia to spread and allow political and religious leaders to scapegoat the LGBT community for society's ills and their own personal gain. Jinja.

Photo 0**6** -
Ugandan worshipers cry after Ugandan Pastor Martin Ssempa screens what he called "gay porn" to support the anti-gay bill during an Anti-Gay rally at the *Christianity Focus Centre* in Mengo, Kisenyi. Kampala.

Photo 0**7** -
A Ugandan religious leader reads from the Bible during an anti-gay rally in the industrial city of Jinja, east of the capital Kampala. East Africa.

Photo 0**8** -
A homosexual witch doctor with friends during a ritual to prevent the passing of an anti-homosexuality bill in the Ugandan parliament. The bill proposes the death penalty for homosexuals, imprisonment for heterosexuals who don't turn gays over to the police and the abolition of all organizations that support gay rights. Kampala.

Photo 0**9** -

Ugandan Pentecostal Pastor Solomon Male gives a speech during an anti-gay rally organised by the Muslim community in Mbarara, Uganda. Pastor Male is part of the "National Coalition against Homosexuality and Sexual Abuse" in Uganda. He claims he was the first person in the country to come out openly against gays. Pastor Male believes that no one is born gay and that through counselling they can be cured of this "affliction".

Photo **10** -
Notes in a registration book showing people who attended "Sodomy case" counselling at the office of Ugandan Pentecostal Pastor Solomon Male. Kampala.

Photo **11** -
A gay-friendly bar in Kampala. The bar is one of the few bars qualified as "Safe Zone" by the gay community. Kampala.

Photo **12** -
Ugandan Pastor Martin Ssempa warns press against what he calls the danger of homosexuality at a press conference in Kampala. He recently made news for planning on February 17th what he called a "million man march" in Uganda in support of the anti-homosexuality bill. While public support for the bill remains strong, the Ugandan government is concerned by international pressure and outrage over a proposed bill that would further criminalize homosexuality in the country, including adding life in prison and death sentences to the punishments. Kampala.

Photo **13** -
Ugandan worshipers cry after Ugandan Pastor Martin Ssempa screens what he called "gay porn" to support the Anti-gay bill during an Anti-Gay rally held by religious and political leaders at *Christianity Focus Centre* in Mengo, Kisenyi. Kampala.

Photo **14** -
A gay-friendly bar in Kampala. The bar is one of the few bars qualified as "Safe Zone" by the gay community. Kampala.

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Photo **16** -
Portrait of a closeted homosexual in Uganda. With the perspective of the anti-homosexuality bill, the gay community has lived in fear for their lives and many have taken actions to protect themselves and become increasingly isolated. Kampala.

Photo **17** -
G. and D. , both 25 years old, met in Kampala five years ago. Today they live in a shack in one of the capital's slums. *"In public we never show we are together."* Their families are not aware they are together or that they are a couple *"But they suspect it,"* says D. To avoid persecution, D. chose to leave her "fiancée" for more than a year and settled in with a boy from her village. However once she became pregnant, she ran away. Today she visits G. with her five-month-old son. *"But we will never be able to tell him the truth,"* says G. *"It's too dangerous."* Kampala.

Gay Heads Identified

For quite some time now, we have been in a bitter row with a strong gay club. While some of them have insisted that we are bad people who are interfering in their 'rights' to shag themselves, others have been grateful that they have kept calling us asking for connections to the different gays in town. Well we wish to inform you that we greatly condemn that act and cannot be party to scrupulous connections. For that, we have been prompted to release a list of renowned gays around town. These we had tried our best to spare but due to their refusal to stop the act that we have been fighting, you have to know them. It is sad that some of these are working in respectable companies that don't deserve this kind of tainting. We believe that if we can join hands, then such abominable behavior can stop in this country that has more developmental issues to put forward

Makerere University Kampala
Andrew (Social Science)
Jonathan (Law Faculty)
Arthur (Librarian)

Nkumba University
Paul a.k.a Miss Nkumba
Mike doing masters degree

Kampala International University
Idi (Education). This where you find many Kenyan gays

Kyambogo University
Desmans doing pharmaceutical

UTL/Mango
Patrick
Haruna
Joe

Nile Breweries
Alex
Jimmy
Julie (lesbian)

Coca cola
Sam commonly known as Sam
Coke

MTN
Isima
Sam commonly known as Sam
MTN

Churches
Pastor Brown of Rubaga Road
Pastor Desally Entebbe Road
Prominent Catholic father called Tony

Photo **18** -
Some local newspapers make a habit of outing homosexuals against their will. The Mirror, now defunct, was one such example. This article was published in 2005.

Photo **19** -

Auf walks in the streets of Kampala. Auf Usaam Mukwaya is a 26 year old gay man and gay rights activist. Because of that, he was arrested and jailed a couple of times, and has endured constant homophobic taunts from his neighbors since he was outed in one of the local papers and his face was shown on television. It became impossible for him to fight back, so he had to flee his own country for his own safety. In June 2010 he arrived in France where he received political Asylum. In France, he founded AGLOAH, an organization of committed African gay and lesbians, willing to fight homophobia in Africa. Kampala.

Photo **20** -
Auf visits his mother in the slum where he grew up. Kampala.

Photo **21** -
Auf Usaam Mukwaya, a 26 year old gay man, and a friend, participate in a ritual with a homosexual witch-doctor to prevent the passing of an anti-homosexuality bill in the Uganda parliament. If the draconian law is passed many in the gay community fear their lives will become unlivable, and may even be killed. Kampala, East Africa.