

The background is a dark teal, textured surface with a pattern of black barbed wire. A large, pink-outlined triangle is superimposed over the center of the image, with its base at the top and its apex pointing downwards, partially framing the main text.

# #StopLGBTpersecution in CHECHNYA and DONBAS

**fiddh**



## On the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia 17 May 2017, ADC Memorial, FIDH and the Center for Civil Liberties launched a campaign in solidarity with LGBT people in Chechnya and Donbas.

**V**iolence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity are sadly still common phenomena. Many are in need of support, international solidarity, and protection. Recently, the situation in Eastern Europe has been most acute in Chechnya and in parts of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts of Ukraine that are controlled by puppet governments.

The situations in these places are in many ways similar: extrajudicial detentions and arrests, threats, torture, blackmail – and denial of these occurrences and even the very possibility that LGBT people could exist in these regions. LGBT people who have not been able to leave these areas must lie low, hide their relationships, and live in constant fear of exposure and repressions. Not everyone can leave – someone always remains, someone is born and grows up in an atmosphere of authoritarian regimes, terror, and discrimination.

These people often feel that no one in the world is prepared to protect and support them or even just accept and understand them.

The human rights organizations Anti-Discrimination Center Memorial and the Center for Civil Liberties, FIDH called upon anyone who values human rights and cannot tolerate discriminatory violence to join the campaign [#StopLGBTpersecution in CHECHNYA and DONBAS](#) by sending photos, video addresses, and pictures in defense of the rights of people who are suffering now.

The goal of our campaign is to collect as many similar expressions of solidarity as possible and to stand up against the unrestrained and rampant violence of self-proclaimed governments and authoritarian rulers in the region, where international law should reign.

The campaign was supported by the worldwide renowned writer Jonathan Littell and famous actress and singer Jane Birkin; messages of solidarity were sent by a number of Members of the European Parliament, including Vice-Presidents of the EP Silvie Guillaume and Ulrike Lunacek, Pier-Antonio PANZERI (Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights), Ian DUNCAN (Vice President of the Intergroup on LGBTI rights of the EP), Heidi HAUTALA (Vice-Chair of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance political group). The out-reach of the campaign was more than 3 million people. Reaching out such a large audience was possible because of those supporters who spread information about the campaign on social networks (some of them are very popular and have hundreds thousands of followers). The organisers of the campaign thank supporters of the campaign - those who made photos with the poster, sent words of solidarity, and spread the hashtag.



The words of authorities have revealed the dangers that LGBTI people face in Chechnya. Many cannot even trust their own relatives, as they risk falling victim to «honour killings». The recent persecution by authorities have made LGBTI people even more vulnerable. We condemn this horrible act of cruelty against supposedly gay men and we demand an investigation and that the regime takes measures to protect LGBTI people. This violent homophobia needs to stop! Discrimination against LGBTI people is unacceptable, and we have to fight this inside as well as outside of the EU.

*Ms. Ulrike LUNACEK, Member of Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Vice-president of the European Parliament, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, President of the Intergroup on LGBTI Rights of the European Parliament*



The situation in Chechnya is a human rights crisis and must be met by a robust international response. I hope the Parliament comes together to condemn this persecution and send the strong message that there can be no justification for the detention, torture and murder of innocent people or systematic discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. Crimes have been committed and those responsible must be identified and brought to justice.

*Mr. Ian DUNCAN  
British Conservative Member of the  
European Parliament,  
Vice President of the Intergroup on  
LGBTI rights of the European Parliament*



As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Rights at the European Parliament, I support the campaign #StopLGBTpersecution. I strongly condemn discrimination on the basis of person's sexual orientation or gender identity: the information that we receive about arbitrary arrests, torture, threats to life and black-mailing of LGBT in Chechnya and Donbas is very worrying. Discrimination and violence based on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity are unacceptable, we'll insist on investigation of every alarming case and full stop of persecution of LGBT-persons by the local power-agents.

*Mr. Pier-Antonio PANZERI, Member of the Progressive Alliance of Socialist and Democrats in the European Parliament, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Member of the Conference of Committee Chairs, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Member of the Intergroup on LGBTI rights of the European Parliament*

# #StopLGBTpersecution





*Lev Rubinstein, Russian poet and writer,  
winner of the Biely Price in 1999*

The objects of xenophobia in different times and epochs were either people who practiced “wrong” religion, or people of another skin color, or people having “other” convictions and “another” world view that differed from mainstream one, - and this is the most bright and clear example of dark, aggressive archaic.

Nowadays, this primitive xenophobia appears in a form of wild, hysterical homophobia. Contemporary civilized mankind, after moving through endless series of self-destroying prejudices and superstitions, through bloody wars and crimes, went to the understanding that the sovereign right of people to be different from each other is a ground of our world. This contemporary world is based not only on mutual tolerance, but on friendly curiosity towards the “other”. Not hate, not suspicion – but trying to understand and readiness to defend those who are under repression and aggression.

To oppose, with all possible legitimate tools, the wild archaic that can base only on force and dark superstitions, - this is not only our right, but the duty of people belonging to the contemporary world, that is our duty.



*Estelle Lefebure,  
French model and actress*



*I support you, dear friends!*  
*Vladimir Mirzoev,  
theatre and movie director (Russia)*



*Lambert Wilson, French actor*



*I stand in solidarity with LGBT  
people in Chechnya and Donbas.  
#StopLGBTpersecution with @fidh\_en  
@adcmemorial*

*Jane BIRKIN, actress and singer  
(Great Britain, France)*



*Michael Youn, French actor, singer, comedian, scriptwriter, film director.*



*Dan Van Raemdonck, FIDH Secretary General*



I am deeply worried about the detention and torture of gay men in Chechnya. These serious human rights violations have to be investigated.  
#StopLGBTpersecution

*Ms. Heidi HAUTALA, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance political group, Member of the Committee on Development, Member of the Delegation to the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, Substitute to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, Member of the Intergroup on LGBTI rights of the European Parliament*



I strongly support #StopLGBTpersecution campaign and urge the authorities to launch a full investigation of the atrocities. The rule of terror must stop and the perpetrators have to face justice as soon as possible!

*Lana Estemirova, daughter of the Chechen Human Rights defender Natalia Estemirova who was killed in 2009 for her counteraction to Human Rights violations in Chechnya; author of the article «In macho Chechnya, being gay is an act of intolerable rebellion»*



*Sylvie Guillaume, politician*



*Ms. Merja KYLLONEN, politician*

# #StopLGBTpersecution



There is frivolity and entertainment but let's not forget that hatred and horror remain, not far from us.

*Christophe Willem, French singer, winner of the 2006 song contest «La nouvelle Star» (French Pop Idol), winner of the French award ceremony «Victoires de la musique» in 2008*



*Ana GOMES, Member of Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Substitute of Committee on Foreign Affairs, Substitute of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Member of the Intergroup on LGBTI rights of the European Parliament*

En Tchétchénie et au Donbas,  
Fraternité, solidarité, aide et  
amitié pour les LGBT persécutés.  
Il faut que cela cesse !

*Jonathan Littell*  
#stopLGBTpersecution  
in CHECHNYA and DONBAS

In Chechnya and Donbas, brotherhood, solidarity, support and friendship to all persecuted LGBT. This has to stop immediately!

*Jonathan Littell, French-American writer, Prix Goncourt 2006 for The Kindly Ones (2006; Les Bienveillantes), also author of «Chechnya, Year III» (2009) and Syrian Notebooks: Inside the Homs uprising, 2015 Littell directed a documentary titled Wrong Elements.*



*Mr. Petras AUSTREVICIUS, Member of the European Parliament, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Member of the Subcommittee on Human Rights*



I stand in solidarity with #LGBT people in #Chechnya and #Donbas #StopLGBTpersecution

*Sacha Koulaeva, Director of Eastern Europe and Central Asia Desk at FIDH and FIDH members*





We are members of the Parliament of Drenthe, in the North of the Netherlands. Our province became a so called 'Rainbow province' last year, the first in the Netherlands, the first in Europe. We are very proud of this and it means that we, as members of the Parliament of Drenthe from different political parties, support the LGBTI community and diversity anywhere. We too are deeply worried about the prosecution of gay men in Chechnya and Donbas and we call upon the international (political) community to take steps to stop this. #stopLGBTpersecution

*From left to right*

*Henk Nijmeijer – GroenLinks (Green Left), Hans Kuipers – GroenLinks (Green Left), Ralph du Long – PvdA (Social Democrat Labour Party), Louise Smits – SP (Socialist Party), Jurr van Dalen – D66 (Liberal Democrats), Henk Pragt – D66 (Liberal Democrats)*



*Ms. Christine Revault d'Allones Bonnefoy, Head of the French Socialist delegation at the European Parliament*



*Alexandra Surgan, journalist of the Crimean Tatar radio «Meydan»*



*Alexandra Matviychuk, director of the Center for Civil Liberties*



*Olga Afanasyeva, mother of former political prisoner Gennady Afanasyev*

# #StopLGBTpersecution



*In June 2017, the mayor of the 11th district of Paris initiated placing the symbol of the campaign in support of LGBT in Chechnya and Donbas on the local city-hall building*