

# COMMUNITY ALERT



Serving the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,  
Queer and HIV-affected Communities

August 18, 2011

## Arrest in the murder of Camila Guzman AVP speaks out about violence within LGBTQ communities

The New York City Anti-Violence Project has learned of an arrest in the murder of Camila Guzman, a transgender woman who was stabbed to death in her apartment on East 110th Street in Harlem on August 1. [DNAinfo.com is reporting that](#), Guzman's boyfriend of four months, Equan Southall, 25, is under arrest and charged with her murder.

The most recent report issued by the National Coalition of Domestic Violence Programs shows a 15% increase in reports of domestic violence in LGBTQ relationships across the country in 2009. There has been a 50% increase in domestic violence-related murders from 2007 to 2009. "As a community we must [openly and honestly discuss this problem](#) and create an environment where victims of domestic violence can access the support they need to be safe," said Sharon Stapel, Executive Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

AVP will be following the trial and following up with the NYPD and the District Attorney's Office about Guzman's death and will keep our constituents updated with additional information on our [Facebook page](#). We continue to offer support to Camila's friends and family during this challenging time.

AVP encourages you to report violence, including hate violence, sexual violence or domestic/intimate partner violence to our **24-hour bilingual (English/Spanish) hotline at 212-714-1141** where you can speak with a trained counselor and seek support, or you can [report violence anonymously online](#) via our website. Find out more about the New York City Anti-Violence Project at our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).