



MEDIA RELEASE

The New York City Anti-Violence Project Will Participate in Vigil on Sunday for Hate Crime Victim Jose Sucuzhanay And To Call For Long-Term Solutions to Hate Violence

For Immediate Release

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New York-The New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) will join other community organizations and elected officials on Sunday, December 14th at 2 PM at a march, vigil and press conference honoring Jose Osvaldo Sucuzhanay, a resident of the Bushwick neighborhood of Brooklyn, who was brutally beaten while walking with his brother, Romel Sucuzhanay. These groups will issue a call for long-term solutions to intolerance such as implementation of anti-harassment legislation in city schools, comprehensive immigration reform and full civil rights for LGBT people.

The attack occurred at 3:30 am on Sunday, November 30th at the intersection of Bushwick Avenue and Kossuth Place in Bushwick. The two brothers were on their way home from an evening spent at a church party at St. Brigid's Roman Catholic Church and later, a local bar, La Vega, arms linked and leaning close together. Just steps from their home the two men were attacked. Their attackers, described as four black men driving a maroon or orange-red Honda SUV, jumped out of their car yelling anti-gay and anti-Hispanic epithets and proceeded to beat Jose Osvaldo Sucuzhanay with a bottle and a baseball bat. Mr. Sucuzhanay, who is on life support at Elmhurst hospital, is a well respected business owner and father of two.

On Sunday December 14th the community will gather at Make the Road New York's Children's Grove Park, corner of Myrtle Ave and Grove Street in Brooklyn and march to the corner of Bushwick Ave. and Kossuth Place, where the assault occurred. Community organizers from organizations from across New York City, including Make the Road NY, New York City Anti-Violence Project, Audre Lorde Project, United States Department of Justice Community Relations, Generation Q, Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition, GLOBE (a group to empower the Bushwick LGBT community), Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), The National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, New York Civil Liberties Union, New York Immigration Coalition, Sunset Park Alliance of Neighbors We are all Brooklyn, YKASEC, and elected officials, including City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, will attend.

The Anti-Violence Project encourages anyone who has information about this deplorable act to come forward to the police or by calling our free and confidential 24 hour bilingual hotline at 212-714-1141. Violence predicated on hatred of perceived or actual sexual orientation and ethnicity cannot be tolerated by New York City residents.

For more information regarding the vigil, please contact the Anti-Violence Project office at 212-714-1184.

The New York City Anti-Violence Project is dedicated to eliminating hate violence, sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and HIV-affected communities through counseling, advocacy, organizing and public education.

In 2007, the Anti-Violence Project served over 2,000 victims of violence. The Anti-Violence Project's Safe Dating and Internet Safe Dating Tips, as well as annual reports on hate violence and domestic violence can be accessed online at www.avp.org or by calling 212-714-1184. NCAVP's annual Domestic Violence Report was released on Monday, October 20, 2008. For a copy of the report, visit www.avp.org.

The Anti-Violence Project provides free and confidential assistance to LGBTQH victims and survivors of violence through its 24-hour bilingual hotline: 212-714-1141