



**ANTI-GAY VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION FOUND IN OVER 90 COUNTRIES IN U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES**

**WASHINGTON** (March 11, 2008) - On Tuesday March 18 at 10:00 AM ET, diplomatic and human rights experts, under the auspices of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) Foreign Policy Project will participate in a "Newsmakers" event at the National Press Club. At this Newsmaker's event the State Department's documentation of violence and discrimination against LGBT people worldwide released today March 11, will be discussed.

**WHO:** Former U.S. Ambassador Michael Guest, representing the LGBT Foreign Policy Project and Scott Long, representing the LGBT Rights Program at Human Rights Watch

**WHAT:** NPC Newsmaker event - panelists will summarize human rights abuses based on sexual orientation and gender identity and how adequately the latest annual State Department human rights report addresses them

**WHEN:** Tuesday, March 18th, 2008, 10:00 AM ET

**WHERE:** The National Press Club (NPC), National Press Building, 1012 14th Street NW, Zenger Room

**Background:** Since 1993, the U.S. State Department has been reporting on human rights violations against LGBT communities in its annual worldwide roundup report on human rights. The first report by the State Department on human rights violations came in 1975. On March 18 Panelists Michael Guest, former US Ambassador to Romania, and Scott Long, founding director of the LGBT Rights Program at Human Rights Watch, will present findings on the 2008 State Department report. The panelists will also examine what is included in the State Department report and what is omitted.

**Panelists** (*in formation*): **Former Ambassador Michael Guest** served as U.S. ambassador to Romania (2001-2004) and as a Foreign Service officer from 1981 to 2007. He ended his State Department career last November over the U.S. government's continued refusal to provide training, protections and benefits to partners of LGBT Foreign Service Officers.

**Scott Long**, who holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, has documented and advocated against human rights abuses based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV status for almost two decades as a founder and senior staff member of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) and as a senior staff member with Human Rights Watch. For his work Long has documented human rights abuses in countries including Albania, Egypt, Hungary, Nepal, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and the United States.

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