February 17, 2015

NCAVP mourns the homicide of Bri Golec of Akron, Ohio

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) has learned of the homicide of Bri Golec who was allegedly killed by Golec’s father in Akron, Ohio. According to local media Golec was fatally stabbed by Kevin Golec, the victim’s father. There are conflicting accounts regarding how Golec identified their gender and sexual orientation; some media sources and community members have stated that Golec identified as transgender at one time, and that Golec “hated labels.” However, other community members have suggested that Golec was a straight ally who was not transgender. NCAVP is continuing to talk with family and friends to determine how Golec identified. We will provide updates on this homicide as we have them.

If Golec identified as a member of the LGBTQ communities, this would be the 11th homicide of LGBTQQ people in 2015. NCAVP has recorded five homicides of transgender women of color, four LGBQ identified people and an individual with the last name Edwards, whose identity is still unknown.

In 2014, NCAVP responded to 21 intimate partner violence-related homicides and 18 anti-LGBTQ bias related homicides.

“2015 has begun in absolute tragedy, with the loss of a staggering number of LGBTQ people to violence,” said Chai Jindasurat, Co-Director of Community Organizing and Public Advocacy at the New York City Anti Violence Project. "We all must take immediate action and recognize that this violence is literally deadly. We need more public awareness and respect campaigns, more people speaking out against this violence, and more protections, particularly for transgender people, from harassment and discrimination. This is an epidemic and an outrage, and we all have to commit as a nation to ending this violence.”

NCAVP is working with local member organization, Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO), to support the local communities affected by this violence.

“BRAVO believes this murder to be hate motivated domestic violence by a family member; this situation clearly points to the complicated and sometimes seemingly impossible navigation of identity facing transgender people,” said Aaron Eckhardt, Training and Technical Assistance Director at BRAVO. “People knew Bri in different contexts. Given the complex nature of identity, it is important for us to speak the lived experience of those we have lost. We continue to be concerned that these homicides are increasing in 2015, and they are continually not reported accurately by the media.”

NCAVP is a resource for anyone who experiences violence. For more information, or to locate an anti-violence program in your area, please contact us at info@ncavp.org or visit us online. Join NCAVP in our efforts to prevent and respond to LGBTQ and HIV-affected violence. To learn more about our national advocacy and receive technical assistance or support, contact us at info@ncavp.org.

If you are a member of the media, please contact:
Chai Jindasurat, New York City Anti-Violence Project: cjindasurat@avp.org or 212-714-1184
Aaron Eckhardt, Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization: aaron@bravo-ohio.org or 614-294-7867
NCAVP works to prevent, respond to, and end all forms of violence against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and HIV-affected communities. NCAVP is a national coalition of local member programs and affiliate organizations who create systemic and social change. NCAVP is a program of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.

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