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<b>G</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

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Boston Globe

6/8/87

# Gay group cites 70 murders in 1988

Reuters

WASHINGTON - Seventy homosexual men and women were murdered in the United States last year, 885 were attacked and 6,293 suffered other abuses, according to a report released yesterday by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The victims included Claudia Brenner, who was shot and critically wounded while her lover was killed on a camping trip. She told reporters she was participating in a news conference on the report to try to "add a face" to the statistics.

"Brutal attempted murder happened to me - and killed Rebecca," she said. "It happened because we were identified as lesbians."

The report said Brenner and her friend were shot by a stalker while camping near the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania on May 13, 1988.

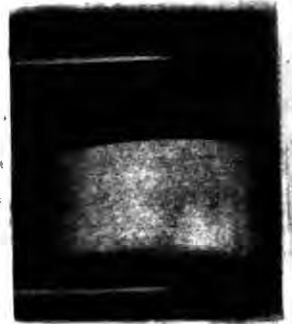
It said 22 of the homosexuals were murdered in "antigay" attacks and the other 48 killings appeared to be gay-related although the motivation could not be established.

The 70 murders last year compared with 64 the year before and the 885 assaults compared with 835 in 1987, the report said.

It said other abuses last year included 5,548 cases of verbal harassment or threats, 449 of vandalism, 205 of physical or verbal abuse by police, 54 bomb threats, nine arsons or bombings and 28 other incidents.

The task force's recommendations included swift enactment of a federal Hate Crime Statistics Act to monitor such abuses and training of law enforcement authorities to respond to hate violence.

Crime -  
C040003



6/8/89

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# Attacks on U.S. Homosexuals Held Alarming Widespread

By PHILIP S. GUTIS

Violence against gay men and lesbians continues to be "alarming widespread," a national organization said yesterday in a report outlining more than 7,200 incidents of violence and verbal harassment against homosexuals around the country last year.

In its fourth annual report, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, a nonprofit civil rights and public education organization, said it was becoming increasingly concerned about violence committed by organized right-wing groups and on college campuses, where it said "intolerance may be gaining ground."

The organization attributed much of the anti-gay violence to the AIDS epidemic. "Hatred and blame associated with the disease is still a problem," said Kevin T. Berrill, author of the report.

The report, which covered 38 states and the District of Columbia, said North Carolina had the most incidents of anti-gay violence reported to the group, with 982 last year. Ohio and Illinois followed with 837 and 678 incidents, respectively. New York was fourth, with 625 incidents, followed by California, 556, and Texas, 528.

### Numbers Are Still Alarming

Although the 7,248 incidents of violence against gay people reported in 1988 — including slayings, assaults, threats and verbal harassment — was the largest number documented in a single year, the task force attributed some of the gain to increased reporting by various organizations around the country. As a result, Mr. Berrill said, year-to-year comparisons are difficult.

"But we think the numbers are still alarming," he said. "The report is a

snapshot of the problem. Although it presents a picture that is not complete, it is vivid enough to show that anti-gay violence is a huge problem."

In 1987, the task force reported 7,006 incidents, as against 4,946 in 1986 and 2,042 in 1985.

Other organizations that monitor bias-related violence have discerned an increase in attacks on homosexuals.

Janet Caldwell of the Center for Democratic Renewal, a group that monitors organizations like the Ku Klux Klan, said: "There has been an increase in homophobic behavior and it is not just within the general population. It is also an outgrowth of the activities of organized hate groups, including the Klan and the neo-Nazis."

The task force noted new laws on bias-related violence in several states and cities.

Wisconsin and Minnesota, for example, passed laws in 1988 ordering the police to monitor hate crimes. In Oklahoma City, the City Council voted in March to include sexual orientation as a basis for protection from intimidation and harassment. And in Columbus, Ohio, the Council stiffened penalties for misdemeanor crimes based on sexual orientation, race, creed, color or national origin.

The Federal Government does not collect or analyze statistics on crimes motivated by racial hatred or other forms of bigotry. A bill to order the Justice Department to collect statistics on hate crimes was not passed by Congress last year, although proponents have again introduced the measure.

The report said 70 homosexuals were slain in the United States last year.

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## Prospects

Ny Times 6/11/89

### A Discrimination Decision

Last Monday, the Supreme Court ruled on an employment discrimination case, *Wards Cove Packing v. Atonio*. The 5-to-4 decision shifted the burden of proof of discrimination in hiring onto the plaintiff — the job seeker. Previously, it was up to the defendant, the employer, to prove it had not engaged in discriminatory hiring practices. This ruling adhered to an earlier decision, *Griggs v. Duke Power Co.*, which allowed companies to utilize standardized tests for hiring. Four experts give their views on these rulings.

Surgeon General Koop called for a broad campaign against drunken driving, including restrictions on alcohol advertising. Saying he wanted to avert alcohol-related traffic fatalities, Koop, who is leaving office next month, also urged tougher blood-alcohol standards and higher taxes on alcoholic beverages. (Story on Page B6) *WSJ 6-1-89*