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## Anti-LGBTQ violence spikes during Pride Month

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs documented three extremely violent incidents during June, the month many cities celebrate LGBTQ Pride. In Chicago, two people were injured at a post-Pride celebration on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, when a man reportedly fired ten shots into a crowd of more than a hundred young people while yelling anti-gay slurs. In San Francisco, a man was reportedly attacked by four individuals in a hate-motivated assault on Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the evening before the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Pride celebration there. Earlier this month in Savannah, two active-duty Marines allegedly subjected 26-year-old Kieran Daly to a severe beating that left Daly unconscious. It is reported that the suspects in the crime are attempting to justify the attack by using a “gay panic” defense, in which homophobia is presented as a grounds for violence. Such violence is an indication that increased visibility of LGBTQ people at Pride events may lead to increased targeting and thus heightened vulnerability to hate violence.

On “Pink Saturday,” June 26<sup>th</sup>, a shooting in San Francisco’s Castro district left 19-year-old Stephen Powell dead and two others critically injured; the motives for this incident are unclear. Carolina Morales, Intervention Director of Community United Against Violence (CUAV) stated, “These incidents are unfortunate reminders of the urgent need to create a culture where everyone is supported to address conflict without violence. We are hopeful that in the wake of this loss our communities can work together to build unity and practice collective safety.” These incidents come just a week after Credale “Sandy” Woulard, a young transgender woman, was found shot and left for dead on a Chicago street in what may have been a hate-motivated murder.

“Tragically, reports of hate violence in June are consistent with a yearly trend: NCAVP sees spikes in reported incidents at times such as LGBTQ Pride, when visibility rises and targeting may also increase,” said Lisa Gilmore, Director of Education & Victim Advocacy at Center on Halsted in Chicago.

As Pride month in much of the country draws to a close, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) joins in celebrating the strength, beauty, and resilience of LGBTQ communities, and honors the Stonewall veterans whose resistance to violence sparked the first Pride march just over 41 years ago. Sadly, the violence faced by LGBTQ communities in 1969 persists today, as evidenced nationally by incidents occurring over the past several weeks. NCAVP stands in solidarity with those affected by anti-LGBTQ hate and renews its commitment to eradicating violence in all of its forms.

*This release is a product of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), a coalition of 40 anti-violence organizations that monitor, respond to, and work to end hate, domestic and sexual violence, HIV-related violence, and other forms of violence affecting LGBTQ communities. NCAVP is a program of the New York City Anti-Violence Project.*