

Stop Murder Music (Canada)

BACKGROUND

Stop Murder Music (Canada) campaign is a coalition of human rights organizations who advocate on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified (LGBT) communities.

Jamaicans for Justice (**JFJ**)

Carolyn Gomes, Executive Director says,

"We do know between last year and this year, mob violence against gays is up, we're certainly aware it is a huge problem", "These are people between to the point of nearly close to death"¹

Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays (**J-FLAG**)

Gareth Williams, Programs Director reports that

- o 2005-2006 over 10 gay people were killed
- o 2005-2006 over 40 assaults against gays were recorded
- o 2007 4 gay men have been killed as a result of their sexuality
- o 2007 4 lesbians have been raped as a result of their sexuality
- o 2007 98 gays and lesbians have been attacked in 43 mob attacks this year alone

Amnesty International

- At a concert in Chicago in April 2002, Sizzla appeared to boast to his audience that he has personally murdered homosexuals: "I kill sodomites and queers, they bring AIDS and disease upon people...shoot and kill them"
- In January 2004, around 30,000 people attended a huge stage show and Rastafarian celebration, Rebel Salute, in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica. Some of Jamaica's most celebrated artists were present. Throughout the night, Capleton, Sizzla and others sang almost exclusively about gay men. Using the derogatory terms for gay men - "chi chi men" or "battybwoys" they urged the audience to "kill dem, battybwoys haffi dead, gun shots pon dem... who want to see dem dead put up his hand" (kill them, gay men have got to die, gun shots in their head, whoever wants to see them dead, put up your hand). Elephant Man, Bounty Killer, Beenie Man, TOK, and Capleton are amongst the stars who have written lyrics variously

¹ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/documentary_archive/6246332.stm

urging the shooting, burning, rape, stoning and drowning of gay people.²

- April 2, 2007, a crowd reportedly threw stones and bottles at a group of costumed men who were dancing in a carnival procession along Montego Bay. According to eyewitnesses, the men, who were said to be dancing in a sexually suggestive manner, were attacked, chased and beaten by a mob of 30 to 40 people. At least one person was hospitalized due to injuries.
- April 8, 2007, another crowd allegedly surrounded a church in Mandeville and hurled objects through a window during a funeral. The crowd apparently believed that those attending the funeral were gay.

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

- On 14th February 2007, four men were held inside a pharmacy in Kingston, Jamaica, for almost an hour. Outside, an angry mob of hundreds demanded that pharmacy staff hand over the men. In addition to hurling homophobic insults, some of the mob called for the men to be killed. Police were forced to use tear gas to disperse the crowd in order to remove the men from the scene³.

In an interview by Richard Burnett in the Canadian entertainment magazine 'Hour' on 19 August 2004, Sizzla said:

- "...burn sodomite, burn battyman. Burn all things that are wrong. Burn it... We must get rid of Sodom and Gomorrah right now..."
- In 2004 Sizzla signed the Entertainer Declaration for entry to Canada, making assurances that he would respect Canadian laws by valuing provisions of the *Canadian Criminal Code*, *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom* and the *Canadian Human Rights Act*. In 2005, Sizzla recorded yet another anti-gay anthem called *Nah Apologize*, where he calls upon his listeners to shoot gay men and never apology to queers.⁴

² <http://www.amnestyusa.org/outfront/jamaica.rtf>

³ http://www.aidslaw.ca/publications/mediaEN.php?t_id=12&l_id=1&sort=date

⁴ http://www.lyricsmania.com/lyrics/sizzla_lyrics_8485/lyrics_28290/nah_apologize_lyrics_309573.html.

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Murder Music Lyrics⁵

Album: Reggae Hits Vol. 24⁶
Track: A Nuh Fi Wi Fault
Artist: Elephant Man
Release Date: 13 Nov 1998
Label: Jetstar

Battyman fi dead!
Queers must be killed!
Please mark we word
Please mark my words
Gimme tha tec-nine
Give me the Tec-9
[Tec-9: semi-automatic assault pistol]
Shoot dem like bird
Shoot them [queers] like birds

Album: Face Off⁷
Track: We Nuh Like Gay
Artist: Elephant Man
Release Date: 20 Nov 1999
Label: V.P Records

Battyman fi dead! Tek dem by surprise
Queers must be killed! Take them by surprise
Get a shot inna yu head, inna mi big gun collide.
I am going to shoot you in the head, you are going to meet up with my big gun
Gimme me Tec-9 General B, wid de chrome wah a shine
Give me the Tec-9 General B, the one with the chrome that shines
[Tec-9: semi-automatic assault pistol]
[General B: a music colleague of Elephant Man's]
Harry Toddler shot out ah bugger-man
Harry Toddler: shoot all queer men
[Harry Toddler: a music colleague of Elephant Man's]

⁵ The translations of the Reggae/Dancehall tracks listed in the OutRage!/Stop Murder Music dossier were done in Jamaica by a Jamaican patois speaker, who is also a professional translator; and some of them were also independently corroborated by translators appointed by the Metropolitan Police in London, UK. None of the singers, managers or promoters has ever denied the translation of the lyrics.

⁶ See <http://www.petertatchell.net/popmusic/Dancehall-Dossier-FINAL.pdf>

⁷ See <http://www.petertatchell.net/popmusic/Dancehall-Dossier-FINAL.pdf>

Album: Log On⁸
Track: Log On
Artist: Elephant Man
Release Date: Greensleeves

Log on and step pon chi chi man

Log on and step on a queer man

[Log on is a type of dance using the right foot in a stepping motion as if to squash a cockroach - the lyrics boast about crushing queers.]

Dance wi a dance and a bun out a freaky man.

Join our dance and let's burn out the queer man

Step pon him like a old cloth

Step on him like an old cloth

A dance wi a dance and a crush out a bingi man .

Join our dance and let's crush queer men

Do di walk, mek mi see the light and di torch dem fast

Do the walk, quickly let me see the lighter and torch

[Lighter and torch: makeshift aerosol flamethrower weapon]

Album: Buzz⁹
Track: Pump Up
Artist: Sizzla
Release Date: 16 Oct 2001
Label: Black Shadow

Step up inna front line

Step up to the front line

Fire fi di man dem weh go ride man behind

Burn the men who have sex with men from behind

Shot battybwoy, my big gun boom

Shoot queers, my big gun goes boom

Album: Red Alert¹⁰
Track: Boom Boom
Artist: Sizzla
Release Date: 27 Jan 2004
Label: Charm Records

Boom boom! Batty boy them fi dead

Boom Boom! [as in gunshots] Queers must be killed

⁸ See Human Rights Watch, Vol. 16 No.6 (B).

⁹ See <http://www.petertatchell.net/popmusic/Dancehall-Dossier-FINAL.pdf>

¹⁰ See <http://www.petertatchell.net/popmusic/Dancehall-Dossier-FINAL.pdf>

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Album: Dancehall Anthems¹¹
Track: Get to Da Point
Artist: Sizzla
Release Date: 16 Oct 2001
Label: Greensleeves

Sodomite and batty bwai mi seh a death fi dem
Sodomite and queers, I say death to them
Mi no trust Babylon fi a second yah so
I don't trust Babylon for a second
Mi a go shot batty bwai dem widdi weapon ya
I go and shoot queers with a weapon
Do di walk, mek mi see the light and di torch dem fast
Do the walk, quickly let me see the lighter and torch

Artist: O'Neil Bryan, aka **Elephant Man**

Concert Dates

Wed	09/26/07	Barrie, ON	The Foundation
Fri	09/28/07	Toronto, ON	Kool Haus
Sat	09/29/07	Saint Catherines, ON	C.A.W. Hall CANCELLED
Sun	09/30/07	Kitchener, ON	Centre In The Square
Tue	10/02/07	Kingston, ON	Elixir
Thu	10/04/07	Ottawa, ON	Capital Music Hall
Fri	10/05/07	Montreal, QC	The Rialto

Promoters: Ultimate Entertainment.ca
Chris Hines Entertainment
Knight Entertainment Inq

Artist: Miguel Orlando Collins, aka **Sizzla**

Concert Dates

Fri	10/05/07	Toronto, ON	Kool Haus
Sat	10/06/07	Brantford, ON	The Club Nemesis

Promoters: A Lyric Music Group Promo

¹¹ See Human Rights Watch, Vol. 16 No.6 (B).