



**European Trans
Gender Network**
<http://tgeu.net>

Portugal / Gisberta: Children murdered transsexual

<http://ekstrabladet.dk/112/article190726.ece>
translated by Alex Zichau

David Andersen, Ekstrabladed, Denmark, 19.04.2005

Children murdered transsexual in a well

Transsexual Gisberta was torured for three days by kids aged between 10 to 16 who tied her up, gagged her, and burnt her with cigarettes.

25 years ago Gisberta immigrated from her homeland Brasil to the big city Porto in Portugal. She was dreaming of a life in a country where she would be accepted despite the fact that she was born as the man Gisberto Sauce Neto.

On February 21 she died at the bottom of a ten meter deep well. She was 46. She was homeless, a drug addict, a prostitute, and hiv-positive.

Attacked by boys

The days up until Gisberta's death are horrifying in more than one sense. The pains she suffered, are shocking, but even more shocking is that they were inflicted upon her by children.

On the evening of February 19th she was sought out at the abandoned building site where she usually slept. She probably recognized several of the 14 boys aged between 10 to 16 who stood before her. They all lived at the boys' home St. José Center just a minute away from her hang-out, and usually they shouted at her when she passed by.

That evening swear words weren't enough for the boys to show their contempt. During police inquiries the boys have admitted attacking Gisberta, tied her up, and gagging her.

Rape with big branches

The boys threw stones at her, kicked her, and hit her. They used branches and other weapons. They also burned her with cigarettes.

Gisberta had never had the opportunity to get a sex change operation. So when the boys raped her with big branches, they raped her anally. They left her badly wounded. And the boys returned the following night, and the night after that - February 21st.

The boys have told the police that they threw her in a well to hide the evidence of their horrible deed. They didn't think she was alive. But the autopsy shows that she survived not only three nights of abuse as well as the ten meter deep fall into the well. When she was found the next day by a team of builders, she had drowned.

After finding Gisberta's body, her old friends from the transsexual community, held memorials by the well. They were filled with rage, but their anger was not directed towards the perpetrators. Several of Gisberta's transsexual friends from the good old days when she performed in a cabaret even expressed that they understood what the boys had done. Gisberta's friends were more likely to blame the priests at St. José for the boys' mad act.

Being raised in a very strict and violent manner and feeling lonely and isolated can make a little boy to do anything to feel that he belongs somewhere. One does whatever it takes to be part of a group. In this case, it cost somebody's life, the mourners thought.

Homosexuality is a curse

It is worth noting that no evidence suggests that the boys from St. José Center were being physically or mentally abused. Even if history shows that horrible things have



occurred in Catholic institutions, particularly the American priests serial rapes of choir boys, there is only one thing to blame the priests at St. José Center: They preach a belief that curses homosexuality and other sexual deviances.

But to imagine that men of the church in a civilized country in the 21st century quietly will accept that their lost sons tracked down and tortured an innocent human being on account of her sexuality is too far out. Or is it?

(Translated by Alex Zichau)

Foreigners were after me

[Other Article - last part. First part identical to the one above]

From Ekstra Bladet

Nikita Nielsen from Korsør has tried herself what it means to be harassed because of her transsexuality. A group of boys with a non-Danish ethnic background got mad at her due to her looks and chased her for weeks.

- They shouted at me and made rude remarks, but because I didn't react to their yelling, they stopped after a while. They were just boys, and I think they found it very boring that I just ignored them, she says, smiling. She says that in Denmark it is usually foreigners who has a hard time accepting the looks of transsexuals.

- But luckily they behave in a more civilized manner than, for instance, in Portugal. The worst case, I have heard of so far, is someone being attacked in Copenhagen. And even though, this is of course bad enough, no transsexual has yet been murdered here.

Many suicides

Nikita, who got tired of her more ordinary girl's name, has been living as a woman for eight years. She has not yet had a sex change operation.

- I have been rejected at Rigshospitalet (the only hospital that performs srs - ed.), and I cannot afford to go abroad to get it done. I could go to Thailand, but the operation costs around 50.000 Danish kroner (app. 6000 ?), and furthermore one has to pay for the trip and the stay.

Due to good friends and a strong psyche, Nikita has learned to live as a prisoner in a wrong body, but according to the chairman of trans-danmark.dk, Karin Astrup, many transsexuals commit suicide because their situation is unbearable.

- We see examples of suicides among both people who undergoes the sex change and are dissatisfied with the result, and then others, who gets rejected for surgery. This tells us something about how serious their situation is.

- Shivers down the spine

Karin Astrup knows Nikita well, and she was horrified when the news about the brutal murder of Gisberta started to circulate.

- In the Catholic Southern Europe, these kinds of crimes are far more common than here (in Denmark - ed.). But it happens everywhere. Here, the worst is, as Nikita says, shouting and relatively harmless attacks, but still it sends shivers down my spine, when I read about these things, says the chairman.

(Translated by Alex Zichau)

