

WE ARE MANY

UNITED-AGAINST-HATE.ORG

PRESS RELEASE

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“**WE ARE MANY**– United Against Hate” speaks out against the recent arrests and detention of more than 100 gay men in Chechnya.

We stand together in opposition to actions of the authorities there, who have reportedly murdered at least three gay men and detained and tortured dozens more in recent weeks. We call upon Secretary of State Tillerson to use this current trip to Russia as an opportunity to call publicly upon the Russian and Chechnyan governments to do all in their power to stop the atrocities and protect their LGBTQ citizens.

“Of course, none of these people in any way demonstrated their sexual orientation publicly, this is equal to a death sentence here”, the newspaper Novaya Gazeta reported.

The campaign of violence and hatred was in retaliation against a Moscow-based Russian gay rights group that had registered to hold gay pride parades in many cities there this year.

We wish to send a powerful message that these acts of hatred and violence against any one of us will not be tolerated.

We want our gay brothers in Russia, and others who have been victims of hate activity throughout the world, to know that they are not alone – that many Americans are standing with them in these tense times.

We ask public officials and community members to join us in this effort to respect all people and to act against the hatred and violence that threatens us all. We also call upon our own Justice Department to speak out against hate crimes against our own LGBTQ brothers and sisters.

We are Many – United Against Hate is an organization of common people who are urban and rural, spiritual and secular, seeking equal protection for all, united against hate, bigotry and racism. We have joined together to replace acts of hatred with acts of love. Anyone who would like to join in that movement can go to www.united-against-hate.org/join.