

MOSCOW MESSAGE



MISSING MEN

Officers attacking a gay man in Moscow, Russia.

A surprising number of men from the ages of eighteen and sixty have recently gone missing in several cities, including the nation’s capital, Moscow. A common trait surrounding the missing men is their involvement with the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) community.

“It is unknown the cause of the vanishing men in our community or the ties in their sexual sins,” states Moscow Police Department’s, Officer Kuznetsov, who investigated the case and what exactly the victims had in common.

The first persons to have gone missing were reportedly two 18 year old boys who had been out together after the curfew hour of nine o’clock. Both boys, Alexei and Leo, had been passing through the Red Square, unsuspecting of any witnesses who might condemn their physical and public displays of affection, including hand-holding and hugging. Their rendezvous was short-lived, as four Russian Police quickly separated and detained the two boys for their “illegal crimes”.

While a police report reads “The 18 year old males were separated, however, with much resistance, they were relinquished from the possession of the Russian Police. Their whereabouts are unknown,” many are suspicious of the timely, coinciding disappearances and fear what will come next for the gay community.

Suspicious arise with the increasing number of gay men missing in Moscow, going from two to thirty-seven in a mere five days. This is the highest number of missing people reported in Moscow, let alone all of Russia, in more than a century. Families, friends, and neighbors are wary of the disappearances because the fact that only gay men have gone missing could easily change at any minute, in which anyone may be taken. There is very little information circulating the public as to what exactly is occurring in the city-state

Similar cases have been reported in cities including St. Petersburg and Sevastopol, the 2 other federal cities in Russia. The police force in both of the cities have yet to release a statement regarding the vanishing citizens.

Local people argue that there is “no coincidence in the ‘random’ missing person cases” and are worried for the few hundred other homosexual men who have gone missing throughout the country. With the disappearances come a multitude of hate crimes by homophobic people, police, and even peoples involved with the government. Such crimes include vandalism on homes of suspected gays, physical attacks on families of the missing men, and the use of derogatory slurs towards gay men who have yet to go missing.

As Russia is a very anti-homosexual region, the people are not surprised by the rise in hate crime. There is currently very little being done to stop such hate crime and hate speech towards the families of the missing persons.

Several conspiracy theories have surfaced and have begun to spread among the people like a virus. Such theories include “Heterosexual Conditioning” in which groups of homosexual men are forced to “revert” to heterosexuality through behavioral and cognitive conditioning; “Genocide of Sexuality” where masses of gay men are killed due to their “unforgivable differences”; and the “Mass Exodus” which is believed to be the emigration of groups of gay males to a “promise-land” where they will be treated fairly and equally as such heterosexual beings of society.

President Vladimir Putin is also thought to be associated with the vanishing groups of people, as he previously expressed his thoughts on homosexual men by stating, "It has nothing to do with persecuting people for their non-traditional orientation... My personal position is that society must keep children safe," regarding his new anti-gay law which was recently passed throughout Russia.

The anti-gay law outlaws "propaganda" of "non-traditional sexual relations" around minors. However, the law potentially makes any public display of homosexuality illegal. Putin has also ordered a consensus to count the number of men who identify as gay, using a polygraph to determine one's sexuality. All gay men must wear a rainbow armband as to “warn” others of their “disability”.

Furthermore, the armbands detect any private or public displays of homosexuality and alert the local police immediately. Not only do the armbands detect acts of affection, they also monitor one's thoughts- in order to “catch” any man with “impure thoughts” and may result in up to ten years in jail and/or cognitive conditioning.

It is only a matter of time until more go missing and more unsuspecting families are bombarded with the news of their beloved family members. If anyone has any information regarding the recent spike in abductions, please contact the anonymous tip hotline at The Moscow Message at 8-495-276-363-48.