

# DC Crimes Highlight Violence Against Transgenders

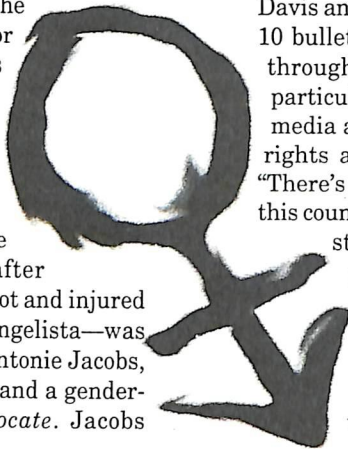
**W**ashington DC Police Chief Charles Ramsey placed the district under a crime emergency, following the recent onslaught of violence, including the murder of two transgendered women this week. The heightened status waives the two-week notice typically required for commanders to change officers' hours and duties.

Early Thursday morning, authorities discovered the body of an unidentified transgender murder victim in a Southeast DC field. The finding came less than 24 hours after another transgendered woman was shot and injured on Wednesday and a third—Bella Evangelista—was killed last weekend. Police arrested Antonie Jacobs, 22, on charges of first degree murder and a gender-bias hate crime, reported the *Advocate*. Jacobs

purportedly became angered after he paid Evangelista, a drag show entertainer, for oral sex and then discovered her biological sex.

Meanwhile, the DC shooting deaths last year of Ukea Davis and Stephanie Thomas—each sprayed with more than 10 bullets—remain unsolved. Transgender rights activists throughout the country are calling for stronger efforts, particularly from the gay and lesbian community, to boost media attention on transgender hate crimes. Transgender rights activist Jessica Xavier told the *Washington Post*, "There's a war against transgendered women going on in this country...It's a pandemic of violence." According to a 1999 study by Xavier, DC is home to 4,000 transgender people, three-fourths of whom are men living as women and 26 percent of whom say they have been intimidated, reported the *Post*.

Source: <<http://www.feminist.org/news/newsbyte/uswire.asp>>, 22 August 2003



# CEDAW Rejected in Iran

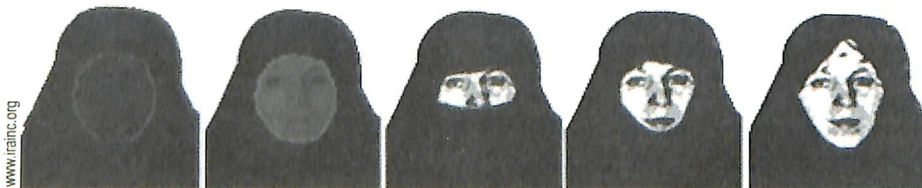
**I**ran's ultra-conservative Guardian Council rejected last week three bills approved by Parliament, foremost among which is the International Women's Treaty, the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The other proposed laws were the United Nations convention on eliminating torture and a measure aimed at stemming the Guardian Council's power to keep candidates from running for office, reports the *New York Times*.

According to the *Times*, Ibrahim Azizi, the council's spokesperson, said the bills were rejected because they went against Islamic law and were unconstitutional. The Guardian Council is controlled by hardliners and has a record of rejecting bills passed by Parliament, many of which were proposed legislation encouraging human rights.

Despite President Khatami's and the parliament's calls to change the restrictive laws in Iran, the Council's clerics continue to eliminate efforts to reform their society. Iranian women still need their husband's permission to work or travel abroad, a man's testimony in court is worth twice as much as a woman's, and women have fewer rights in divorce and child custody.

CEDAW has been ratified by 173 countries but a handful remains uncommitted. The Bush administration has not taken a position on CEDAW, but the United States continues to avoid ratifying the treaty. "I wonder if President Bush called the clerics in Iran to tell them, 'Welcome to the club,'" said Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) in a press release. "It's mind-boggling that the Bush Administration is content to remain equal with a member of the 'axis of evil' on the issue of discrimination against women."

Source: <<http://www.feminist.org/news/newsbyte/uswirestory.asp?id=7996>>, 18 August 2003



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