

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
PRESS RELEASE**

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Amnesty International activists take part in Baltic Pride 2009

Amnesty International activists from over 20 countries will take part in Baltic Pride 2009 in the Latvian capital Riga to display international support and solidarity with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) activists from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Amnesty International is campaigning for LGBT people to be free from physical and verbal attacks and threats in general and to be adequately protected by law enforcement officials during the sanctioned events.

Baltic Pride 2009, organized by the Latvian organization *Mozaika*, the *Lithuanian Gay League*, and *Estonian Gay Youth*, takes place in Riga between 15 and 17 May.

“Equality before the law will be the message that gay rights activists will take to the streets of Riga. They will call on the governments of the three Baltic states to take a stand against the climate of intolerance and exclusion of LGBT people that persists there and is getting even stronger in times of economic hardship,” said David Diaz-Jogeix, Europe and Central Asia Deputy Programme Director at Amnesty International.

During the course of the Baltic Pride 2009, Amnesty International will take part in the following events:

Friday 15 May

10.30 Baltic Pride Press conference.

12.00 Political roundtable with politicians from across the Baltic states to discuss The importance of social inclusion in times of crisis.

Saturday 16 May

12.00 -14.00 Start of the march in Vermanes Park in Riga.

15.00 Baltic Pride Press conference.

Amnesty International delegates will be available for interviews throughout Baltic Pride 2009.

For more information and to arrange an interview, please contact:

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