

What Hate Looks Like

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Abstract

Raymond Buys was sent to an infamous right-wing training camp for effeminate boys. “I sent my son on this course to make him a better man, to give him a better future...” said Buys’ mother, Wilma Buys. Upon admission to the hospital, Buys had had brain damage, cigarette burns all over his body, a broken arm, numerous bruises and [...]

Article



Figure 1. 15-year-old Raymond Buys shortly before his death

Raymond Buys was sent to an infamous right-wing training camp for effeminate boys. “I sent my son on this course to make him a better man, to give him a better future...” said Buys’ mother, Wilma Buys.



Figure 2. Buys in camp uniforms

Upon admission to the hospital, Buys had had brain damage, cigarette burns all over his body, a broken arm, numerous bruises and resembled Nazi concentration camp survivor. He died weeks later.

The camp which is supposed to turn effeminate boys into manly men is located in very secluded South African town of Swartruggens. The camp calls itself, Echo Wild Game Rangers (now offering a 15% tuition discount to boot!) and has been in trouble for suspicious deaths of boys in their care before.



Figure 3. Flag associated with camp

According to court documents, boys were subject to such tortures as having boiling water thrown on them or being dragged behind a pickup truck. It's reported that before Buys tried to escape the camp, he had been strapped to a chair and electrocuted.

Activist Melanie Nathan said:

What is so shocking is that the murder of Buys is not the first, as Echo Wild Game Rangers has seen the deaths of 2 young teens, also perceived as gay and clearly effeminate, when in 2007, 18-year-old Eric Calitz and Nicolaas van der Walt, 19 both died in similar circumstances. de Koker was handed a suspended sentence in 2009 over Calitz's death but escaped charges for van der Walt's death, which was ruled to have been caused by a heart attack. It was reported that de Koker

told Calitz that he wasn't a "moffie" (like saying "fag") and he "would make a man out of him." The idea of the camp is to apparently make men of teens and to "cure" "'feminine traits' in male youths..." another way of saying gay reparative therapy, instead in this instance that therapy involved "beating the gay out of the kid" - torture and if torture didn't effect the desired change, then certainly murder would; after all a dead teen is not a gay teen.

The Telegraph seems to be the source of early reports concerning this organization and its victims. Camp leaders have since plead not guilty to all charges.

While the camp featured in this post considers itself to be Christian-oriented, such camps are not only limited to Abrahamic religions. A Buddhist re-orientation camp for trans people is known to exist in Thailand as well.

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