

# Stop Murder Music (Canada)

Working Group of the Canadian Caribbean Human Rights Group  
(CCHRG)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 13, 2007**

## **Murder Music Artists Should be Denied Entry To Canada**

**Toronto:** Lyrics by anti-gay Jamaican dancehall artists' Elephant Man and Sizzla violate the *Criminal Code* and the *Canadian Human Rights Act* by inciting violence and murder against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-identified (LGBT) communities. Upcoming Canadian concerts should be cancelled and the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration should deny their entry to Canada says Stop Murder Music (Canada).

“Artists like Elephant Man and Sizzla have the right to free speech, however their lyrics incite violence and murder against a person based on their sexual orientation,” said Akim Larcher, spokesperson for Stop Murder Music (Canada). “Their presence in Canada can be perceived as a license to incite violence.”

Gareth Williams co-chair of Jamaica Forum for Lesbians, All-Sexuals and Gays (J-Flag), echoes this sentiment and believes that dancehall is being used as an instrument in Jamaican society to incite oppression, violence and murder to silence the LGBT communities.

“Concert promoters have a responsibility not to provide a platform for artists that openly promote violence against any group in society,” said Helen Kennedy, Executive Director of Egale Canada. “We hope that the promoters will do the right thing and cancel these concerts as other countries have done.”

Lyrics by Elephant Man include “Battyman fi dead! Tek dem by surprise”<sup>1</sup> which call for queers to be killed. “Shot battyboy, my big gun boom”,<sup>2</sup> sung by Sizzla calls for queers to be shot. Whilst on tour in Europe this summer Sizzla performed his anti-gay anthem *Nah Apologize*, “I will never apologize to any queers.” Elephant Man has remained unapologetic for his lyrics also.

Stop Murder Music (Canada) campaign is a coalition of over 20 organizations that promote human rights both in Canada and abroad.

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### **For more information:**

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<sup>1</sup> Queers must be killed! Take them by surprise (English translation).

<sup>2</sup> Shoot queers, my big gun goes boom (English translation).