

World News

by Kai Wright

Same-sex acts remain illegal in 82 countries

BELGIUM — Laws banning sex between people of the same gender remain on the books in at least 82 countries and call for the death penalty in at least nine, according to the latest worldwide survey of Gay-related laws conducted by the International Gay and Lesbian Association.

ILGA, founded in 1978, has published the annual survey for the last several years.

The group trumpeted this year's survey, which it released April 13, as the most comprehensive to date.

The survey includes country-by-country information on immigration

laws, family laws, anti-bias laws, and a gauge of the political climate for Gays.

Of the 82 countries that ILGA lists as banning sex between people of the same gender, 41 banned sex both between men and between women and 42 banned sex only between men.

The survey's authors cautioned that detailed information about Gay-related laws in many countries, such as the exact wording of laws or what penalty they carry, was unavailable. Gay human rights monitors have also cautioned that the existence of a pro-Gay or anti-Gay law in a given country has no bearing on the reality Gay people there face.

The survey is featured on ILGA's Web site at www.ilga.org.