

Below are some of the stories that ran about the Amancio Project vigil. In addition to the local CBS affiliate, the NBC affiliate covered the story. They just didn't post anything on their website.

Sam Holdren, Organizer

Arizona Leadership Institute / Arizona Action Network

2701 N 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85006

(602) 264-5782

sam@azleadership.org

Remembering Amancio: Friends, family gather to commemorate life of man found murdered May 6 in Yuma

BY PAIGE LAUREN DEINER

Jun 26, 2005

Yuma Sun

Tears rolled down Jackie Renteria's face as she spoke of her slain friend at a vigil for him Saturday night.

Amancio Corales, a man who performed as a female impersonator, was found murdered May 6.

Renteria said she hopes that Saturday's vigil, held at Madison Beach Park, will help get the message out that "you can't just always hate."

Many of the more than 75 people who attended the vigil believe that Corales was murdered because he was gay.

Michael Baughman, one of the organizers of the vigil said he hopes that by reminding the community of this death it will keep pressure on the police to find the murderer or murderers.

"We need to get it so that we don't have any more crimes based on hate," Baughman said.

Donna Rose, a transgender advocate from Scottsdale, said "Amancio was killed for what he is, not for anything he's done. In the end, hate is hate."

"Hate doesn't take its time when it chooses victims it could land on us at anytime," she said.

Louis Herredia, spokesman for Congressman Raul Grijalva said, there is no room for these types of crimes. "They are just the very worst in people," he said.

"Biased-based crimes exist and they need to be addressed with fervor," said Baughman, who is with Yuma County Gay Rights Meetup.

On a framed piece of cloth, propped against a large tree, family and friends wrote about Corales:

"I wish I could save us all from hate — love John."

"Give love a chance."

"Justice shall be served in your name."

Most of the messages were scrawled in crayon and marker on the white cloth.

Renteria said Corales was a frequent visitor to her home.

"He made me feel better when I was down," Renteria said. "He's one of the persons who cared more. No matter who he was, I still love him. People need to not judge (people) for how they are, they need to look at the inside."

Paige Lauren Deiner can be reached at
pdeiner@yumasun.com or 539-6872.

Vigil for Amancio Corrales
The fight to end hate crimes

KSWT – 13 (CBS)

A vigil in memory of Amancio Corrales was held Saturday evening. He was killed in what authorities say may have been a hate crime.

It was a gathering of family, friends and supporters from all over the state who came to show their support to end hate crimes. Amancio Corrales was found dead in the Colorado River just a month ago.

The candlelight vigil included human right activists and gay right supporters who spoke out and rallied behind the fight to end hate crimes like the one they say killed Amancio.

People in attendance watched a video tribute to Amancio that showed pictures of him throughout his life. People also signed an expression wall.

The Yuma County Gay Rights Organization is going to be working closely with senators and local law enforcement on what else can be done to help prevent future crimes like these from happening.

An anniversary and a memorial for Amancio are in the works.

Vigil Held For Gay Man As Police Hunt Killer

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

Posted: June 26, 2005 4:00 pm ET

(Yuma, Arizona) About 100 members of Yuma's gay community held a candlelight vigil Saturday night for a gay man murdered last month in what police have labeled a hate crime.

The body of Amancio Corrales, 23, was found in the Colorado River on May 6.

Corrales was a well known drag performer in Yuma and in Mexico. He performed under the name Delilah. Corrales was born in Sinaloa, Mexico, and worked as a cosmetologist in Yuma.

Corrales was seen the night of his slaying at several bars in Yuma in drag.

Sheriff's spokesperson Capt. Eben Bratcher said that investigators believe Corrales may have left one of the bars with people who believed him to be a woman.

Bratcher said that Corrales suffered from violent trauma, but that police were not releasing the exact cause of death because it might hinder their investigation.

There have been no arrests and police say they have few leads.

The killing has sent shockwaves through Yuma's relatively small and close knit gay community.

Organizers of the vigil said they hoped it would keep the pressure on police to find the killer.

Amancio was killed for what he is, not for anything he's done. In the end, hate is hate," said Donna Rose, a transgender advocate.

"Hate doesn't take its time when it chooses victims it could land on us at anytime."