March Against Homophobia in Cuba

May 16, 2010 By Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.

Well, it seems that pigs can fly--the Associated Press reports that hundreds of LGBT activists and allies in Cuba marched in the streets of Havana on May 15 in anticipation of the 20th anniversary of the International Day Against Homophobia on May 17.

The marchers were led by Mariela Castro, the daughter of president Raul Castro (brother of the former president Fidel Castro, who is sick but still alive). She also is director of the national center for sex education in Cuba. (She's in the woman with her hand up in the front row.)

The march is part of a week-long series of events, including discussions about marriage for same-sex couples and adoption by same-sex couples.

Growing up as the U.S.-born gay son of Cuban immigrants, I can tell you it is no small thing what is happening in Cuba when it comes to LGBT issues. I sincerely hope these efforts have an impact in diminishing the profound homophobia in Cuban society.

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