

Brazilian deposed bishop and wife killed at home

News in the [March 21, 2012](#) issue

Conservative Brazilian bishop Robinson Cavalcanti, who broke away from the established Anglican church, and his wife Miriam were killed February 26 at their home in Olinda in northeastern Brazil, said his diocese, known as Anglican Church–Diocese of Recife.

Reports from conservative Anglican media said that Cavalcanti was returning from a parish visit and that the couple's adopted son, Eduardo, was a suspect in the stabbing deaths.

After the U.S. Episcopal Church in 2003 approved the election of a gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, Cavalcanti asked the House of Bishops in Brazil to express its opposition. Brazil's bishops refused, and Cavalcanti pulled away from the official Anglican Church of Brazil.

The bishop also broke his ties with U.S. dioceses but took part in irregular actions, including confirmations in Ohio in 2004, without the diocesan bishop's permission, according to Episcopal News Service.

In 2005, Cavalcanti was deposed from the Anglican Church of Brazil. Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams attempted to mediate the dispute, but to no avail. When Cavalcanti left, he took 32 clergy and their congregations with him, said the Episcopal News Service. The bishop claimed church properties and refused to relinquish many diocesan documents.

When Brazil legalized gay marriage in 2011, Cavalcanti wrote that his country had legalized sin and "immorality."