

...We tried to recollect and capture here as best as possible what happened with Anti-Flag's singer when he played in Costa Rica over 11 years ago. Please let me know if you need any clarification on it and THANK YOU for what you are doing for all existing victims and for all other women you are protecting from becoming victims with this work.

After the show, we headed back with the band to their hotel as they wanted to rest a little and refresh before heading to a local bar to grab something to eat. While we were waiting in the hotel lobby for them, my husband Alejandro (Ale) and I noticed their singer was walking into the hotel talking to, clearly flirting with, getting physically close to a girl who certainly didn't look over 18 (the age of legal adulthood in Costa Rica). If anything, she looked no older than 15. I immediately approached them and stopped the girl to talk to her in Spanish. I asked if she was at least 18 and she said yes, but that she did not have her ID with her (she never said her actual age.) She said she was there because the singer had invited her to hang out with him. But she started getting very nervous. I said that she could not be here if she was underage with no adult supervision and that, as part of the production company of the show, it was my responsibility to ensure we complied with this. She mentioned she lived very far away from the hotel and because it was late (close to midnight), and she had no way to get home. I knew where she lived. I was born, raised and lived most of my life in that province (state) so I gave her enough money to take a cab from the hotel lobby and get home safe. At this point, Ale explained to the singer what was happening and told the singer we were going to send her home as we could not confirm her age and that this could result in legal trouble for the band, the hotel and us as producers. We clearly explained to him that while the age of consent in Costa Rica is 15 years old, she could not confirm she was 18 and we could not confirm she was at least 15, so we sent her home. He proceeded to apologise to us by saying he thought she was at least 18 and would not get in contact with her again and he went to his room to get ready for dinner by himself. I made sure she got in the cab and headed home.

After this, I went home and did not go to dinner with the band, but my husband did. I was tired and upset and did not want to hang around them anymore but my husband was the producer and he had to go with them.

When they got to the bar, to my husband's surprise, the girl was there and we assumed she was waiting for the band's singer. How she knew where they were headed, I do not know. I can only assume the singer told her, or perhaps someone in the bar told her. I can only assume she took the cab to the bar, instead of her house. Once Ale saw her, he asked her what she was doing there as she was not supposed to be in a bar under 18 or without an ID that proved her adulthood and that she should go home. She said she would and left... Ale did not see her again that night. We can only hope she didn't end the night with him. The singer of this band, Anti-Flag, was at the time and is to this day Justin Sane.

After this awful incident, anytime someone would reach out to say that they were going to work with Anti-Flag on a tour and asked if we wanted to include Costa Rica, we could advise against it. I don't think we have listened again to the band since that incident. In over 18 years of making punk and hardcore shows in Costa Rica, this is the only instance of (possible) abuse by a band we have witnessed.

Big hug from Ale and myself,  
K