

(<http://2912a.v.fwmrm.net/ad/l/1?>

[s=f044&n=379215%3B379215&t=1466627023326882012&f=&r=379215&adid=13138273&reid=4342632&arid=0&aid=&cn=defaultClick&et=c&_cc=&tpos=&s](http://2912a.v.fwmrm.net/ad/l/1?s=f044&n=379215%3B379215&t=1466627023326882012&f=&r=379215&adid=13138273&reid=4342632&arid=0&aid=&cn=defaultClick&et=c&_cc=&tpos=&s)



(<http://2912a.v.fwmrm.net/ad/l/1?>

[s=f044&n=379215%3B379215&t=1466627026843277014&f=&r=379215&adid=15851632&reid=5441805&arid=0&aid=&cn=defau](http://2912a.v.fwmrm.net/ad/l/1?s=f044&n=379215%3B379215&t=1466627026843277014&f=&r=379215&adid=15851632&reid=5441805&arid=0&aid=&cn=defau)

"AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY" 6 (<http://fusion.net/2016/06/>)22 (<http://fusion.net/2016/06/22/>)16 (<http://fusion.net/2016/>) 11:30 AM

These women are using drones to defy Northern Ireland's draconian anti-abortion laws

By Rafi Schwartz (<http://fusion.net/author/rafi-schwartz/>)



Women on Waves

These women are using drones to defy Northern Ireland's draconian anti-abortion laws

FUSION ON TV



(<http://fusion.net/video/317082/london-installs>)



London installs LGBT crosswalk lights (<http://fusion.net/video/317082/london-installs-lgbt-crosswalk-lights/>)

TWEET

SHARE

([HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/SHARE?](https://twitter.com/share)

([HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARER/SHARER.PHP?](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?)

URL=HTTP%3A%2F%2FFUSION.NET%2FSTORY%2F317455%2F-THESE%3A%2F%2FFUSION.NET%2FSTORY%2F317455%2

WOMEN ARE USING DRONES TO DEFY NORTHERN

WOMEN ARE USING DRONES TO DEFY NORTHERN

son Act 1861—is life imprisonment.” But despite recent polls showing widespread support (<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/northern-ireland-amnesty-urges-politicians-back-abortion-law-change>) for an easing of the laws, (<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/northern-ireland-amnesty-urges-politicians-back-abortion-law-change>) politicians in Northern Ireland voted this year to reaffirm (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/abortion-law-madness-whats-really-going-on-northern-ireland/>) their draconian, restrictive rules. As a result, many women seeking to end pregnancies are forced to do so in neighboring countries—an option not all women can afford.

The drone delivery was the work of a collection of pro-choice groups lead by Women on Waves (<http://www.womenonwaves.org/>), a reproductive health organization responsible for a similar (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33299660>) airdrop in Poland last year.



Courtney Robinson, one of the women on hand for the Northern Ireland delivery, said in a statement (<http://www.womenonwaves.org/en/page/6311/abortion-pills-everywhere>) posted by Women on Waves:

The right to safe abortion should be a private matter but by criminalizing it has instead become a political issue. I have the human right to access and use these medicines.

In that same release, Rita Herold, of the reproductive rights organization Rosa (<http://rosa.ie/>), which also participated in the drop, said:

Abortion is criminalised in both Northern Ireland and the Republic. We sent the pills across the border today as an act of solidarity with women in NI who are currently facing prosecutions. This is outrageous. Today's action is a clear message of intent – North and South we will build an unstoppable movement of women and young people until women have the right to control their own bodies.

According to Women on Waves, the drone launch was accompanied by a simultaneous delivery of pregnancy terminating medication by a radio controlled speedboat. Activists were also encouraged to attend a protest outside Belfast's Court of Appeal that afternoon.

NEWS ([HTTP://FUSION.NET/SECTION/NEWS/](http://fusion.net/section/news/)), REAL FUTURE ([HTTP://FUSION.NET/SECTION/REAL-FUTURE/](http://fusion.net/section/real-future/)), WOMEN ([HTTP://FUSION.NET/TOPIC/WOMEN/](http://fusion.net/topic/women/)), IRELAND ([HTTP://FUSION.NET/LOCATION/IRELAND/](http://fusion.net/location/ireland/))

(<http://2912a.v.fwmrm.net/ad/l/1?>

[s=f044&n=379215%3B379215&t=1466627028142691013&f=&r=379215&adid=13138274&reid=4342632&arid=0&uid=&cn=defaultClick&et=c&_cc=&tpos=&s](http://2912a.v.fwmrm.net/ad/l/1?s=f044&n=379215%3B379215&t=1466627028142691013&f=&r=379215&adid=13138274&reid=4342632&arid=0&uid=&cn=defaultClick&et=c&_cc=&tpos=&s)

OPEN COMMENTS

fusion&taboola_utm_medium=bytaboola&taboola_utm_content=organic-thumbnails-b:Below Article Thumbnails - 1 row:)
fusion&taboola_utm_medium=bytaboola&taboola_utm_content=organic-thumbnails-b:Below Article Thumbnails - 1 row:)
YOU MAY LIKE

(http://fusion.net/story/212720/the-shocking-practice-pregnant-women-endure-in-american-prisons/)

The Shocking Practice Pregnant Women Endure in American Prisons

(http://fusion.net/story/212720/the-shocking-practice-pregnant-women-endure-in-american-prisons/)

(http://fusion.net/story/273058/egyptian-toddler-life-sentence-ahmed-mansour-karni/)

How A Three-Year-Old Boy Got Sentenced to Life in Prison for Sabotage

(http://fusion.net/story/273058/egyptian-toddler-life-sentence-ahmed-mansour-karni/)

(http://www.theonion.com/blogpost/it-heavy-heart-i-announce-i-am-having-my-parents-p-53131?)

utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=feeds&utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=fusion&utm_term=univision-fusion)

It Is With A Heavy Heart That I Announce I Am Having My Parents Pick Me Up Early From This Sleepover

The Onion

(http://www.theonion.com/blogpost/it-heavy-heart-i-announce-i-am-having-my-parents-p-53131?)

utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=feeds&utm_source=taboola&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=fusion&utm_term=univision-fusion)

HUMAN RIGHTS 6 (http://fusion.net/2016/06/) / 9 (http://fusion.net/2016/06/09/) / 16 (http://fusion.net/2016/) 4:08 PM

Why a recent UN ruling could put America's restrictive abortion laws in the crosshairs

By Nidhi Prakash (http://fusion.net/author/nidhiprakash/)



Getty Images

By Nidhi Prakash (<http://fusion.net/author/nidhiprakash/>)

FOLLOW (HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/INTENT/FOLLOW?SCREEN_NAME=NIDHIPRAKASH)

FEED (<HTTP://FUSION.NET/AUTHOR/NIDHIPRAKASH/FEED/>)

(<HTTPS://WWW.TUMBLR.COM/WIDGETS/SHARE/TOOL?>

URL=[HTTP://FUSION.NET/STORY/311856/ABORTION-](HTTP://FUSION.NET/STORY/311856/ABORTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS-UN/)

HUMAN-RIGHTS-UN/?

UTM_SOURCE=TUMBLR&UTM_MEDIUM=SOCIAL&UTM_CAMPAIGN=SOCIAL

([HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARER/SHARE?](HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARER/SHARE?URL=HTTP://FUSION.NET/STORY/311856/ABORTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS-UN/?UTM_SOURCE=TUMBLR&UTM_MEDIUM=SOCIAL&UTM_CAMPAIGN=SOCIAL)

HUMAN-RIGHTS-

U=HTTP%3A%2F%2FFUSION.NET%2FSTORY%2F311856%2FABORTION-HUMAN-RIGHTS-UN%2F%3FUTM_SOURCE%3DFACEBOOK%26UTM_MEDIUM%3DSOCIAL%26UTM_CAMPAIGN%3DSOCIAL%26UTM_CONTENT%3DTHISISFUSION&CAPTION%26POST-

HUMAN-RIGHTS-

HUMAN-RIGHTS-

VIA=THISISFUSION&CAPTION&POST-

UN%2F%3FUTM_SOURCE%3DFACEBOOK%26UTM_MEDIUM%3DSOCIAL%26UTM_CAMPAIGN%3DSOCIAL%26UTM_CONTENT%3DTHISISFUSION&CAPTION&POST-

(MAILTO:?)

SUBJECT&BODY=VIA%20FUSION.NET%20%3E%20HTTP%3A%2F%2FFUSION.NET%2FSTORY%2F311856%2FABORTION-

HUMAN-RIGHTS-

UN%2F%3FUTM_SOURCE%3DEMAILSHARE%26UTM_MEDIUM%3DEMAIL%26UTM_CAMPAIGN%3DSOCIALSHARE%26UTM_CONTENT%3DTHEME_TOP_DESKTOP

By Nidhi Prakash (<http://fusion.net/author/nidhiprakash/>)

Following the United Nations' landmark decision (<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/09/ireland-abortion-laws-violated-human-rights-says-un>) today in defense of women's rights to abortion care, states pushing for severely restrictive abortion laws are dangerously close to contravening international human rights standards.

The U.N.'s Human Rights Committee ruled in favor of an Irish woman, Amanda Mellett, who challenged her country's abortion laws after being forced to leave Ireland for an abortion when she found out that her fetus had fatal congenital defects, meaning it would die in the womb or shortly after birth. The committee found in favor (http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR/C/116/D/2324/2013&Lang=en) of Mellett's argument that "Ireland's abortion law subjected [her] to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and encroached on her dignity and physical and mental integrity."

When Mellett returned to Ireland from the U.K., only 12 hours after her abortion because she couldn't afford to stay long enough to fully recover, she was denied access to medical care and counseling. The U.N. committee wrote (http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR/C/116/D/2324/2013&Lang=en) (http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR/C/116/D/2324/2013&Lang=en) that she was forced to make a decision "between continuing her non-viable pregnancy or travelling to another country while carrying a dying foetus, at personal expense and separated from the support of her family, and to return while not fully recovered."

Ireland has some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the world: the procedure is only allowed if a woman's life is at risk. Irish law does not allow for abortion in cases of rape, incest, or fetal abnormalities and even if, as in Mellett's case, doctors say the fetus will not survive.

"Many of the negative experiences she went through could have been avoided if (she) had not been prohibited from terminating her pregnancy in the familiar environment of her own country and under the care of health professionals whom she knew and trusted," the committee wrote (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20077&LangID=E#sthash.3R7knAsC.dpuf>).

The Irish government will be required to compensate Mellett for her costs and for damage to her mental and physical wellbeing. And they're obliged as a signatory of the International Bill of Human Rights to prevent this from happening to other women in Ireland. Meanwhile, the U.S. is also a signatory (<http://www.cartercenter.org/news/documents/doc1369.html>) to that bill of rights—but the laws being proposed in some U.S. states are almost as extreme as those in Ireland. The Guttmacher Institute writes (<https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2016/04/trends-states-first-quarter-2016>):

Legislators in nine states have introduced measures to ban all or most abortions in the state, generally by either granting legal personhood to a fetus at the moment of conception or prohibiting abortions at or after six weeks of pregnancy.

Across the country, 38% of women live in a county without an abortion clinic, the *Los Angeles Times* reports (<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-adv-abortion-traveler-20160530-snap-story.html>), and there's even less access in states like Missouri and Mississippi, where there is just one abortion clinic left. That means that like Amanda Mellett, many women are required to travel long distances, sometimes across state lines, to have a safe abortion.

In Oklahoma, a measure that would have effectively criminalized abortions (<http://fusion.net/story/295156/oklahoma-abortion-bill/>) by prosecuting almost any doctor for performing the procedure was narrowly avoided last month after the state's legislature passed the provision. The state's governor, Mary Fallin, vetoed it. This week Fallin did sign another bill into law (<http://kfor.com/2016/06/07/gov-fallin-signs-humanity-of-the-unborn-child-act-into-law/>) that will require state agencies to develop education materials (http://webserver1.lsb.state.ok.us/cf_pdf/2015-16%20ENR/hB/HB2797%20ENR.PDF) "for the purpose of achieving an abortion-free society."

In the first few months of this year, 411 bills seeking to restrict abortion to various degrees were introduced in state legislatures around the country. Of those, the Guttmacher Institute reports (<https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2016/04/trends-states-first-quarter-2016>), 21 new anti-abortion laws have already been enacted.

Requirements like mandatory counseling (which women in 38 states are required to get) and waiting periods (which women in 28 states have to endure) (https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/spibs/spib_MWPA.pdf) before women are allowed to go through with having an abortion are already contrary to international healthcare best practices. The World Health Organization has said that restrictive laws that enforce measures like these can put women's health at risk. "Women, including adolescents, with unwanted pregnancies often resort to unsafe abortion when they cannot access safe abortion," the organization says in its guidelines on abortion (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs388/en/>).

And while these restrictions affect all women, they take a disproportionate toll on low-income women (<https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2016/abortion-patients-more-likely-be-poor-2014-2008>) and women of color (<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/09/abortions-racial-gap/380251/>), who already face higher barriers to access healthcare. The United Nations ruling sends a clear message to governments around the world that state legislators would do well to take notice of how taking away a woman's ability to find safe, accessible health care services is a violation of her human rights.

NEWS ([HTTP://FUSION.NET/SECTION/NEWS/](http://fusion.net/section/news/)), WOMEN ([HTTP://FUSION.NET/TOPIC/WOMEN/](http://fusion.net/topic/women/)), HEALTH ([HTTP://FUSION.NET/TOPIC/HEALTH/](http://fusion.net/topic/health/)), WORLD ([HTTP://FUSION.NET/TOPIC/WORLD/](http://fusion.net/topic/world/))

OPEN COMMENTS



(<https://versy.com/feed/user:56c3cbd7-321c-4074-aaca-4cea31f17d72/fusion.net/newsletter>)

(<https://www.fusion.net/partnerportal>)

About Us (<http://about.fusion.net/>) Advertising (<http://about.fusion.net/advertising/>) Contact Us (<http://fusion.net/contact-us/>) Sitemap (<http://fusion.net/sitemap/>)

Press (<http://press.fusion.net/>) Jobs (<https://careers-fusion.icims.com/jobs/intro?hashed=435776033&mobile=false&width=835&height=500&bga=true&needsRedirect=false>)

Content Labeling Guidelines (<http://fusion.net/content-labeling-guidelines/>) Privacy Policy (<http://fusion.net/privacy-policy/>) Terms of Use (<http://fusion.net/terms-of-use/>)

User Submission Agreement (<http://fusion.net/user-content-submission-agreement/>) Sign Up For Our Newsletter (<http://fusion.net/newsletter-subscribe/>)

External links are provided for reference purposes. Fusion is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.
© 2016 Fusion Media Network, LLC. All rights reserved. Powered by WordPress.com VIP (<https://vip.wordpress.com/>).