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Chile: Rape Ignites Abortion Debate

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The case of a pregnant 11-year-old girl who was raped has set off a national debate about abortion in one of the most socially conservative countries in Latin America. State television reported that the girl, known only as "Belen," is 14 weeks pregnant. Police arrested her mother's partner, who confessed to abusing the fifth grader. Doctors say her life and that of the fetus are at high risk. But ending the pregnancy is not an option. Chile allowed abortions for medical reasons until they were outlawed in 1973 by the Pinochet dictatorship. The current government of President Sebastián Piñera has opposed any loosening of the prohibition. Many Chileans were venting outrage about the case on social media on Friday. (AP)

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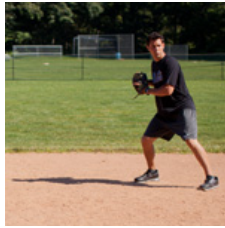
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