

The Japan Times NEWS

WORLD / SOCIAL ISSUES

'Feminist drone' delivers abortion pills to Poland

AFP-JIJI

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WARSAW - Feminist activists on Saturday sent a drone from Germany to Poland carrying abortion pills to highlight the staunchly Catholic country's restrictive abortion laws.

The pills are not available in Poland and Jula Gaweda of the feminist organization Feminoteka said that two Polish women — who were not pregnant — swallowed them as part of the “symbolic” stunt organized by Dutch pro-choice campaign group Women on Waves.

“The operation went well,” Gaweda said.

“It's a symbolic operation designed to show that just a few kilometers (between the take-off and the landing site) can be a gulf in terms of respect for women's rights, reproductive rights which are human rights,” she said, adding that the pills were provided by a Dutch gynecologist.

Activists launched the drone in the German city of Frankfurt an der Oder, flying it across the river to the bordering Polish town of Slubice.

A dozen anti-abortion protesters gathered at the landing site and gave out plastic fetuses to the pro-choice activists, Gaweda said, adding that several plainclothes police officers attended the event without intervening.

Poland, whose population is 90 percent Catholic, only allows abortion within 12 weeks of pregnancy in cases of rape or incest, or 24 weeks in cases of irreversible fetal malformation or a threat to the mother's life.

After 24 weeks of pregnancy, the procedure is allowed on a case-by-case basis if the mother's life is at risk.

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