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Protesters use drone to fly abortion pills to women across the Irish border

PRO-CHOICE campaigners have delivered abortion pills to women in Northern Ireland using a drone.

By Nicole Stinson / Published 21st June 2016



FLYING: It has been named the 'Abortion Drone'

The flight began in Republic of Ireland before landing across the border at 10am today.

The groups, Alliance For Choice, Rosa, Labour Alternative, and Women On Waves collaborated on the protest and claim no laws are being broken.

They hope the stunt will highlight the strict laws in both countries surrounding terminating pregnancies.

The groups navigated a similar flight from Germany into Poland last year.

In a statement they said: "The 'abortion drone' will mark the different reality for Irish women to access safe abortion services compared to women in other European countries where abortion is legal."



PA/LIAM MCBURNEY

BORDERS: The drone crossed the Irish border with the pills

The flight started in Omeath in Co Louth and landed close to Narrow Water Castle in Co Down.

They will be transporting the drugs, mifepristone and misoprostol which can be taken up to nine weeks into a pregnancy.

Both were approved by the World Health Organisation in 2005.

Some protesters who weren't pregnant volunteered to take a pill each to prove the drug was 'safe'.

Courtney Robinson from Labour Alternative, who is one of the volunteers said: "The reason we are doing this is to highlight that these pills are available to women who are not able to travel outside of Northern Ireland for an abortion.

"I have no concerns. I know the pills are safe."

Courtney Robinson



PA/LIAM MCBURNEY

PROTEST: Woman who have an abortion in Northern Ireland of the Republic Ireland can be jailed

"I have no concerns. I know the pills are safe.

"As long as politicians in Stormont and the Dail continue to ignore human rights we will continue to defy the law."

In Northern Ireland, the maximum penalty for the crime of administering a drug to induce miscarriage under the Offences Against The Person Act 1861 is life imprisonment.

In April a 21-year-old woman was handed a suspended sentence by a judge in Belfast after she bought drugs on the internet to induce a miscarriage.

She had planned to fly to England for the tablets, but could not afford the travel costs.

Drones in pictures

Tuesday, 27th October 2015

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Drones in pictures

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A drone flying over vineyards of the Pape Clement castle in France

In the Irish Republic, the offence of procuring an abortion carries a potential 14-year jail term.

Activists are also planning to stage a picket outside Belfast High Court.

A ruling which denied that the miscarriage in Northern Ireland was incompatible with human rights legislation is being appealed.

Meanwhile, pro-life campaigners have vowed to do all in their power to stop the drone.

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