

Women's rights campaigners plot drone flight to scatter abortion pills over Catholic Poland

22:26, 26 JUNE 2015 | BY ALLAN HALL

Dutch and Polish feminist groups are planning the stunt to highlight their opposition to strict laws against termination in the deeply religious country

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Airlift: Feminist groups will use drones to drop abortion pills on Poland

An unmanned drone will fly over the border from Germany to Poland on Saturday to scatter abortion pills to women in the deeply Catholic country which forbids most pregnancy terminations.

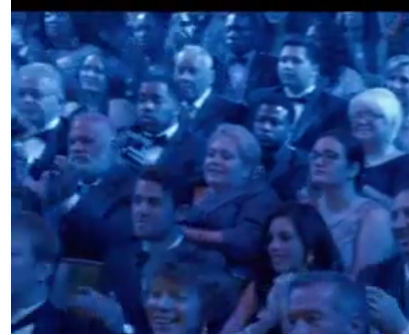
The drone will set off from Frankfurt an-der-Oder, fly over the river to the bordering Polish town of Slubice and deliver the pills to individual women.

Police are anticipating trouble both in the air and on the ground as pro-life groups have threatened to shoot [the drone](#) down.

The Dutch group Women on Waves has organised the controversial airlift in conjunction with the Polish [feminist](#) organisation Feminoteka.

"It's a symbolic operation to show that these few kilometres represent a gulf in terms of respect for women's rights and reproductive rights," according to Jolanta Gaweda from Feminoteka.

"Distributing these pills is prohibited in Poland," she added. Poland forbids most [abortions](#) and only recently authorised the use of the so-called 'morning after' pill.



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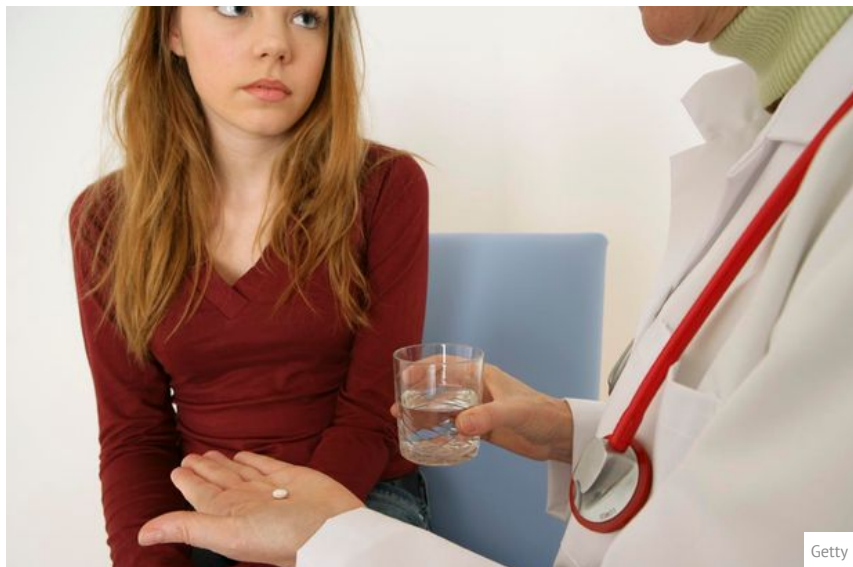
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Poland only allows abortion within 12 weeks of pregnancy in cases of **rape** or incest, or 24 weeks in cases of foetal malformation or a threat to the mother's life.

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



Banned: The abortion pill is unavailable in Poland

Women on Waves has over the years sent abortion boats to countries including Ireland, Portugal and Spain to provide women with free treatment.

"We're always looking for new ways to get through the loopholes of laws that restrict access to abortion," said Rebecca Gomperts, a medical doctor who founded Women on Waves in 1999.

The group has been posting drugs to women in Poland for some years but recently customs officials began seizing them.

"Using a drone is our way of calling attention to the realities women face and making women aware about the possibilities of abortion pills," she added.

"The more women in Poland know about it, then they will know to ask for it and maybe demand change in their society."

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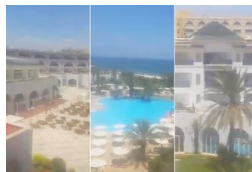
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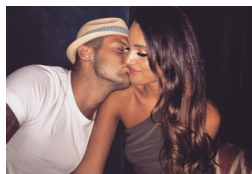
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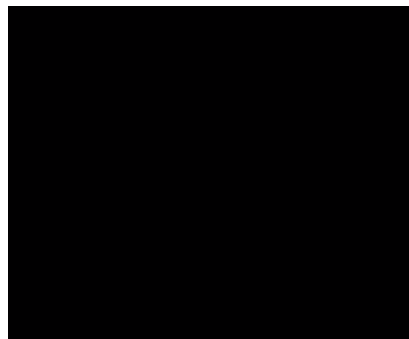
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