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Video: 'Abortion Drone' delivers pills to Poland

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Written by Raymond Johnston Hits: 11



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Small pilotless craft was used to circumvent restrictive law

A small drone was used to deliver two packages with abortion pills from Germany to Poland, where laws concerning abortion have been quite restrictive since 1993. The event was live streamed over the Internet.

"The Abortion Drone left at 11:00 from in front of the

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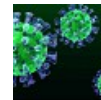
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Konzerthalle Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach in Frankfurt an der Oder and landed at the opposite side of the river in Stubice, Poland. There were no anti-abortion protesters,” the Dutch-based group Women on Waves said in an online statement.

Abortion in Poland is banned except when the woman's life or health is endangered by the continuation of pregnancy, when the pregnancy is a result of a criminal act, or when the fetus is seriously malformed.

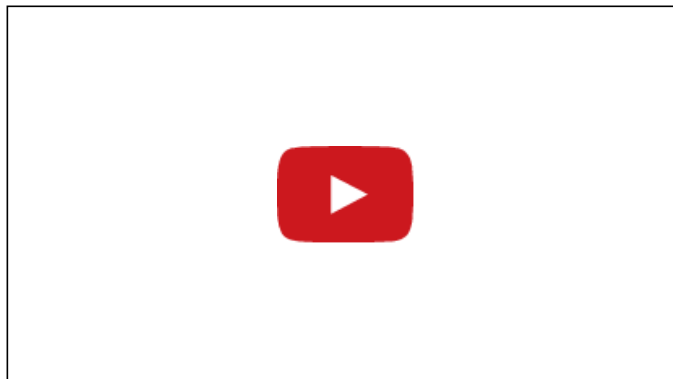
Currently women in Poland who want an abortion for other reasons have to go to another country or get one clandestinely. Human rights activists say that even when a case does qualify for abortion under the law, women still have a hard time obtaining one.

The group in the past has taken ships to Ireland, Spain and Portugal, where abortions are also restricted, to provide abortion counseling and pills outside of territorial waters.

Women on Waves reported that German Police tried to stop the drone flight, but the pilots were able to safely land the drone on the other side of the Oder River where people were waiting for them. Two Polish women ingested the pills delivered to them by the drones.

German police confiscated the drone controllers and personal iPads.

“They pressed criminal charges but it is totally unclear on what grounds. The medicines were provided on prescription by a doctor and both Poland and Germany are part of Schengen,” Women on Waves said, referring to the system of open borders in most of Europe.



The group claims that international treaties guaranteeing access to healthcare are on their side.

“The current restrictive Polish abortion law creates social injustice and affects especially women without financial means or information,” the group added.


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Women on Waves also recounted several cases where women in Poland suffered health consequences from lack of access to abortion.



“Even women who would be allowed to have an abortion under the restrictive law are refused treatment by doctors and hospitals such as the case of the 14 years old raped girl P, who was denied access to safe and legal abortion services due to harassment and intimidation by hospital workers, the police and others,” Women on Waves said.

The group maintains that restrictive abortion laws like the one in Poland violate international human rights agreements such as the right to health.

Estimates of how many women in Poland seek abortions every year range from 48,000 to 240,000.

The Abortion Drone campaign is a collaboration between Women on Waves; Ciocia Basia, Feminoteka Foundation, the 8 th of March women’s rights informal collective “Porozumienie kobiet 8 marca”, Berlin-Irish Pro Choice Solidarity, Codziennik Feministyczny, and the Political group Twój Ruch.



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RAYMOND JOHNSTON

Raymond Johnston is Editor in Chief of the Prague Post.

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