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Drones deliver abortion pills to women in Poland

Drones have been used to deliver abortion drugs to women in Poland in a protest against Poland's pregnancy termination laws.

by **Michelle Starr** @riding_red / June 30, 2015 11:32 PM PDT

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The Abortion Drone awaiting takeoff.

Women on Waves

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men's advocacy group has used a quadcopter they dubbed the one to deliver pregnancy termination drugs to women in Poland.

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group **Women on Waves** piloted the drone from Frankfurt, Germany, over the river and delivered the drugs safely to two Polish women in a city square accompanied by members of Polish women's advocacy group

. The pills, provided by a Dutch gynaecologist, contained the abortion
 mifepristone and misoprostol.

No, thanks. he women's groups said, was an act of protest designed to draw
 attention to laws in Poland that prohibit women from terminating pregnancies
 except under specific circumstances.

It is illegal in Poland for a woman to have a foetus aborted except in cases of rape
 or incest, in which case the foetus must be aborted within the first 12 weeks of
 pregnancy; or in cases of irreversible malformation or threat to the mother's life, in
 which case the foetus must be aborted within 24 weeks.

drone2.jpg

The Polish women receiving the shipment of pills.

Women on Waves

This leaves Polish women seeking underground abortions that may put their lives
 at risk. Although only a few hundred abortions are **officially recorded each year**,
 following the institution of the laws in 1993, the **World Health Organisation**
estimates put the number at at least 30 percent of all pregnancies.

Aside from the cost -- which
 can be thousands of euros --
 seeking underground
 abortions poses **an enormous**
risk to women's health, which
 could be decreased with
 access to legal reproductive
 control options.

drone3.jpg

A German police officer confiscates the drone
 controller.

Women on Waves

"[The Abortion Drone is] a symbolic operation designed to show that just a few
 kilometres (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,"
 Feminoteka's Jula Gaweda **told AFP**.

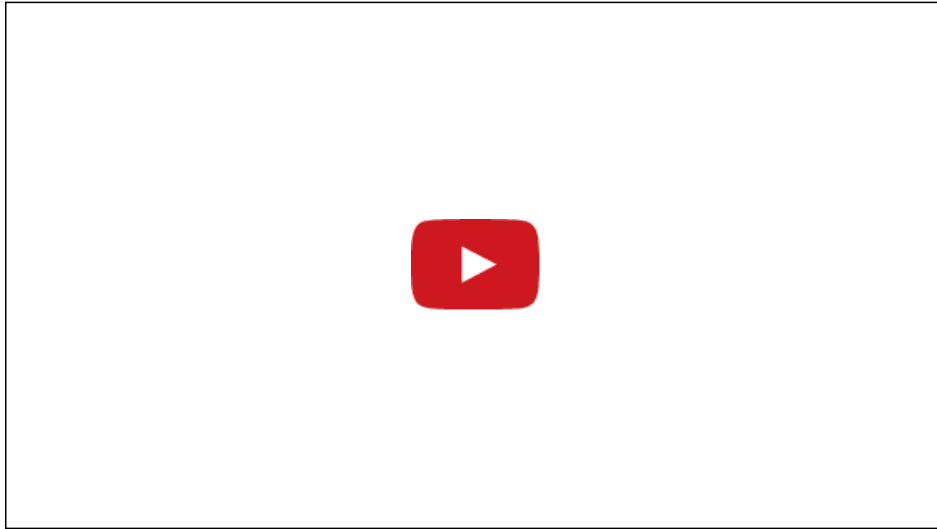
The groups chose drone delivery because it is not illegal in the area they flew. The
 flight zone was not controlled airspace, and the drone, which weighed less than
 five kilograms, was not being used for commercial purposes, so authorisation was
 not required under either Polish or German law.

Although the flight was successful, police confiscated items and will be attempting
 to press charges, Women on Waves **said in a press release**.

"The German police confiscated the drone controllers and personal iPads. They
 threatened that there will be charges but it is totally unclear on what grounds,"
 Women on Waves said.

"The German Police already admitted that flying the drone over the border was not
 illegal but now want to test a violation of the Arzneimittelgesetz (medicines law).
 However, as required by law, the medicines were provided on prescription by a
 doctor and both Poland and Germany are part of **Schengen** [26 European countries
 that have abolished border restrictions]."

Women in Poland are not subject to penalties for illegal abortion, and nor is it illegal
 for Women on Waves to distribute the pills. However, illegal abortion practitioners
 or doctors prescribing illegal abortion pills can face up to two years imprisonment.



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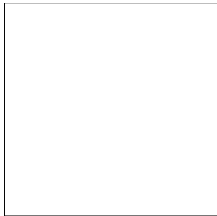
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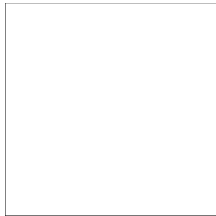
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Michelle Starr is the tiger force at the core of all things. She also writes about cool stuff and apps as CNET Australia's Crave editor. But mostly the tiger force thing. [See full bio](#)

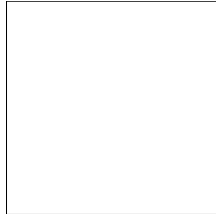
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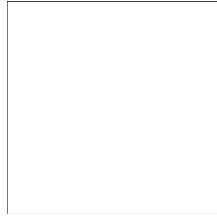
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kanic121

1 hour ago

They need to have a emblem on the side of that drone of it shooting down the stork with

the baby swinging from it's beak.

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cloudmatt

2 hours ago

Wow....I actually have to say I'm against this. I do think women should have the right to make their choice, but breaking a law won't change a law. This pill drone isn't any different than underground abortion clinics, if it's the only option for these women it's what will be used, and medicine and medical procedures outside of the law are of extreme risk.

Please don't flame me, I personally believe in the scantily of life, but my lack of a uterus excludes me from ever having a right to say what is or is not right other than to say the woman must make such a decision for themselves and wrestle with their own moral beliefs.

REPLY / LIKE

caicopley

3 hours ago

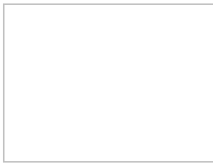
If there are no travel or medical restrictions, go somewhere to have a medically safe abortion. And be careful about where you and whom you're with so hounding get raped.

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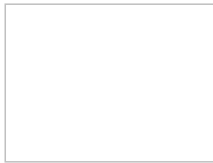
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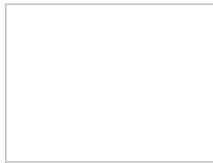
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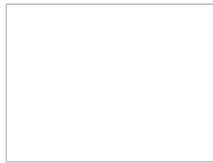
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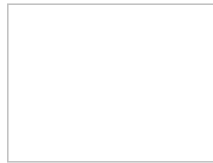
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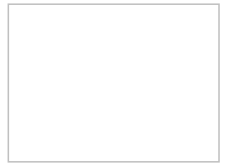
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