

Guatemala stops Dutch boat providing abortions

Health (<http://www.dutchnews.nl/Category/Health/>)

February 24, 2017



Guatemala blocked entry to a Dutch ship run by the Women on Waves pro abortion organisation on Thursday. The country's army stopped the boat, which is carrying a supply of abortion pills, citing the country's constitution.

It was placed in military custody, with seven crew members apparently still aboard, after landing at a private pier 120km south of the capital, Women on Waves spokeswoman Leticia Zenevich told [Reuters](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-guatemala-abortion-idUSKBN163080) (<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-guatemala-abortion-idUSKBN163080>).

The Dutch organisation provides free abortion services for women up to 10 weeks pregnant, taking them beyond the territorial waters of countries where abortion is illegal.

It offers them an abortion pill, monitors them for several hours, and lands again.

The Guatemalan army said in a statement that it would not allow the organisation to operate due 'to the constitution regarding the preservation of human life and the laws in effect in our country.' Local protestors were also filmed at the harbour.

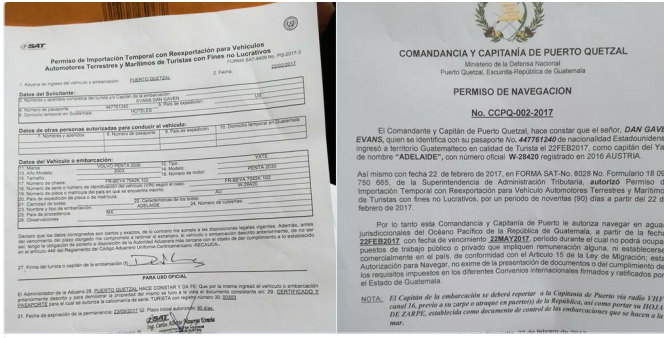
Illegal abortions

In Guatemala, abortion is only legal if a woman's life is at risk, and Women on Waves claims around 65,000 abortions are performed there illegally each year.

'Guatemala has been chosen because the laws are very restrictive on the subject of abortion,' Quetzali Cerezo, director of Women in Equity in the country, was quoted as saying.

This is the first such trip made by the organisation since Morocco blocked a ship from entering a harbour in 2012, Zenevich told Reuters.

The organisation said on its [website](http://www.womenonwaves.org/en/page/6588/in-collection/2604/guatemalan-army-declare-they-will-denounce-the-abortion-ship-without-legal-ground) (<http://www.womenonwaves.org/en/page/6588/in-collection/2604/guatemalan-army-declare-they-will-denounce-the-abortion-ship-without-legal-ground>) that it had all the necessary paperwork to be in Guatemalan waters. The authorities are blocking a 'lawful protest against the state's restrictions on the Guatemalan women's right to safe abortion,' the organisation said.



Women on Waves
@WomenOnWaves_

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Here we have all required licenses to enter, stay and sail in Guatemala. Detainment of the abortion ship is a violation!

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Sarah • 4 days ago
Sad for the affected women :(

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keith dodd → Sarah • 4 days ago

But good for the children. Lives have now been saved.

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Sarah → keith dodd • 4 days ago

Indeed saved to go unwanted, life of poverty, disease hunger, in a developing country. so glad they get to live that life...

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



JayJay → Sarah • 4 days ago

Ah yes, the argument of the sympathetic. "Oh for shame, it's ugly, kill it. Oh no, it's disabled..kill it quick. Oh poor baby, it's unwanted...murder it instead." What the hell do you know about life in Guatemala? Pimping murder as a solution to hunger and poverty. If those are the qualifiers, then I'd have been killed early as a child. Your "reasoning" is despicable and in serious need of a moral correction.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



keith dodd → Sarah • 4 days ago

Facts are that most women, after having an abortion, are ridden by guilt. Subconsciously they know that what they did was wrong.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Valentijn → keith dodd • 4 days ago

No they aren't. Read the research, not the propaganda.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



keith dodd → Valentijn • 4 days ago

Read what I typed above.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



crashboy59 → keith dodd • 4 days ago

Truth is do you do not have any facts indicating the psychological effects of abortions on woman. If you actually did you would have presented it to us but no, you basically just stated your opinion, an ignorant one at that. Here is a fact for you.

"Abortion can emotionally affect each woman differently. Some women report a sense of relief after having an abortion. Emotional and psychological effects following abortion are more common than physical side effects and can range from mild regret to more serious complications such as depression."

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keith dodd → crashboy59 • 4 days ago

Truth is I had my info face to face with a gynaecologist from Harley street. You are the ignoramus.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Wendi Galczik → keith dodd • 2 days ago

A male gynecologist no doubt...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



crashboy59 → keith dodd • 4 days ago

Okay then please present me the info you keep teasing us with. Other than that it's your gynecologist's word versus mine.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Thoughtful → keith dodd • a day ago

Think most are burdened by family/friends who make them feel guilty (or society for that matter). Rule should be the moment one is aware of them not having their menstruation, to take action .. not wait for months or near birth. Those children/women who are raped not knowing ~ is another matter. This world is over-populated with unwanted children, mistreated in all manner .. yet we do nothing much for them (or can't), still we push for unwanted pregnancies .. for more. Pray tell: how many babies are made out of "wanting a child" compare them to those who were made out of a mistake/mishap? Don't go deeper into this question, just as it is get the drift of those who are NOW suffering? Did I not get YOU to agree ... why not? Is it because of your/others thinking we have this unsettled situation? WRONG is: being BORN unwanted with no guidance, no security, no tender attachment etc.,

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Wendi Galczik → keith dodd • 2 days ago

Gee, Keith, are you psychic, or what? You know even less about women than most men, apparently..and if you don't want an abortion, don't have one..simple..

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Pogmothoin → Sarah • 4 days ago

So would you advocate genocide to avoid a life of poverty?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Terence Hale • 4 days ago

The arrogant Dutch mixing their self in other people affairs. What if respectable countries send a ship to Holland with flame-throwers to burn the drug fields.

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



john kilcher → Terence Hale • 4 days ago

This is a bit different, the good people aiding the women transport them into international waters to aid them. Should this Trump driven evangelist fundamentalistic country, the u.s. get the right to make Roe v. Wade invalidated, I can only hope this fine Dutch organization come to the aid of americans seeking an abortion. Call it murder if you wish, but the woman must have a say on health issues with regards to their bodies. And for all of the purists out there, I have no doubt most of the uproar comes from white people who, if their sweet daughter got " a little bit pregnant", there will be resources.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Terence Hale → john kilcher • 4 days ago

OK only when the Dutch face America law.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Pogmothoin • 4 days ago

Well done Guatemala!!!

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



suzypulledapistol → Pogmothoin • 4 days ago

Troll.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Alice • 3 days ago

Look at all the men explaining to us women how great this is. Every single time.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Pogmothoin → Alice • a day ago

Look at the men and women who are defending "life" entry single time. It is heartwarming!!!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Padgo → Alice • a day ago

Yup :p

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Charlie Brown • 4 days ago

One point of argument is that while they "...have all required licenses to enter, stay and sail in Guatemala", the Guatemala government has a right to enforce its laws, including detaining the ship and the crew. It's unfortunate the Guatemala government got the better hand in the deal but...

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



crashboy59 • 4 days ago

I thought holland was a liberal society, one of the first to actually legalize abortions, how can there be so many conservative comments actually glad about an arbitrary seizure of an NGO promoting services for woman, which include abortions, are you the same kind of people who sings songs, and tell stories every Sunday?

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



whatjusthappened → crashboy59 • 3 days ago

It is a liberal society, you can off yourself to if you feel like it. Guatemala doesn't want or need foreign abortionists and refused them entry. They love and value their children.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



JayJay • 4 days ago

Aw, poor baby killers, not being allowed to carry out their murderous purges with impunity. You are no longer in Europe, killers, you don't have the right to peddal your cutting and suctioning when and where you see fit. You are not a law unto yourselves and I hope that the Guatemalan government prosecutes each and every one of you under their strictest laws.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Agenda • 4 days ago

If the Guatemalans want to preserve human life, it's their prerogative to keep out activists playing like heroes who go to Guatemala without authorization to end human life. Activists like these believe human life doesn't become official until it goes out. Abroad. Yet

without authorization to end human life. Activists like these believe human life doesn't become official until it pops out. Absurd. Let abortions be a complex issue and every case is individual. Ought to be permitted if woman's life in danger or victim of rape.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



crashboy59 → Agenda · 4 days ago

According to the organization they have the authorization, and under their perspective it's their right to help families and woman with issues involving birth control and abortions, the irony is that the abortions are going to happen with or without them, and at least with them you can ensure the safety of the mother. So apparently you care more about the life of an unborn fetus, but what about the life of the mother, if she is too young to have a child or simply cannot have one due to economic status, how criminal can it be to force woman to have children if they cannot cope with the responsibilities of having one. And imagine the child living in abject squalor or poverty since the mom can't get a job since she has to take care of the kid, how about we just let people decide what they have to do with their life. Stop promoting your conservative ideas just because you somehow justify that an unborn embryo/fetus can become a human life, it's not your decision and it's not your right to dictate what others can do with their bodies and their prospective offspring.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



Agenda → crashboy59 · 4 days ago

If they had authorization why were they blocked? If it's as you say their right to help families and woman with issues involving birth control and abortions why are they not sailing to Saudi Arabia where women are second class citizens? I think you know why. And it's not their "right". You apparently have difficulty comprehending English. I said "abortions are a complex issue and every case is individual. (abortions) Ought to be permitted if woman's life in danger or victim of rape." From your comments you have no idea what a "conservative" is and the awareness to decide who is one. And by the way, embryos do become a human life. So how can I be justifying it? You're the one justifying why these activists have the right to tell people what to do with their life. The Guatemalan women on TV was lecturing the activist about their right to be there. Again, your comprehension is doubtful. Too much thimerosal maybe.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



crashboy59 → Agenda · 4 days ago

Bureaucracy works very differently in developing countries. If they have documents authorizing their transit, why would they be stopped by the military? Maybe it has to do with the large Catholic population in Latin America who believe the only form of birth control should be abstinence and with data we all know that does not work, so again religion intercedes in matters of reality. So I don't know why you are taking this so personally in the real world facts and data mean we should be providing women with access to real birth control and access to abortions as a part of vital component for woman's health.

"Unsafe abortion is a leading cause of reproductive morbidity and mortality in countries where abortion is illegal or severely restricted."

"The little evidence that is available suggests that induced abortion is common [in Guatemala]".

65,000 INDUCED abortions are performed annually in Guatemala, 21,000 end up in the hospital due to complications. One abortion for EVERY six births. So again they are going to happen anyways, because that's the reality of life. We have choices to make, and sometimes women have to make that difficult choice of annulling a pregnancy for economic or health reasons, but even simply because they aren't ready for a child. Now forcing women to have a child she does not want... how morally broken must you be to not see the harm that would bring to both mother and child.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ·



Nathan Swigg → Agenda · 4 days ago

up to 10 weeks, not at birth

^ | v · Reply · Share ·

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rrustema — I am not talking about students who don't know. Also about students who started enthusiastically and convinced, ...

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