



(https://news.vice.com)



Photo via Women on Waves

EUROPE (/TOPIC/EUROPE)

A Drone Is Flying Abortion Pills From Germany to Poland This Weekend



By Rachel Browne (/contributor/rachel-browne)

June 23, 2015 | 5:43 pm

This Saturday, a drone packed with abortion pills will fly over Germany and drop them off at an undisclosed location in Poland, where abortion is illegal except in certain circumstances.

Women on Waves, a non-profit group of doctors and activists from The Netherlands that travels by ship to provide non-surgical abortions to women in countries where it's illegal, has teamed up with German and Polish women's groups for the project, which they say is the first of its kind.


A pilot will fly the drone from Frankfurt an der Oder (which is about six hours from Frankfurt, right on the Polish border) into neighboring Slubice, Poland to women waiting to terminate their pregnancies. The exact location of the drop-off will be announced Friday, but it's already generating controversy, with pro-life groups promising to shoot the flying machines down.

"We're always looking for new ways to get through the loopholes of laws that restrict access to abortion," Rebecca Gomperts, a medical doctor who founded Women on Waves in 1999, told VICE News. She says her group has been mailing abortion pills — mifepristone and misoprostol — to women in Poland for years, but lately customs officials have been withholding them.

The pills are available in almost all other countries in Europe, but are not registered in Poland. It's against the law to take the pills there, but there are no criminal sanctions (<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/poland-drone-deliver-diy-abortion-drugs-women-1507444>) for doing so.

In 1993, the government in Poland passed laws restricting access to abortion except in cases of rape or incest, or when the woman's life, or the fetus, is in danger. Before that, women could get abortions legally.

Other countries in Europe that criminalize abortion include Ireland and Malta.

Related: [Gay Marriage Is Legal But Abortion Is Still A Crime In Ireland — Even In Rape or Incest Cases](#) 

While the Polish government reports that around 744 abortions happen in the country each year, Gomperts believes that number is likely closer to 50,000. And the doctors who do perform abortions illegally usually use outdated tools and procedures, and will charge up to 4,000 euros.

"Using a drone is our way of calling attention to the realities women face and making women aware about the possibilities of abortion pills. The more women in Poland know about it, then they will know to ask for it and maybe demand change in their society," she added.

Poland was the logical first choice for the drone project because of its proximity to Germany and because of the close relationship between women's rights groups in the two countries, Gomperts says. She was inspired by new delivery services using drones announced by companies such as Google and Amazon.

"I thought, if they can do it, we can too," she said.

Several months ago, she approached members of Coccia Basia, a newly formed group in Berlin that helps women in Poland get legal abortions in Germany. Coccia Basia, which translates to "Aunt Barbara" in Polish, raises money for women to access abortion pills and other non-surgical means of abortions, or to help them travel to Germany for surgical abortions.

Sarah Diehl, one of Coccia Basia's members, told VICE News the group jumped at the chance to get involved with the abortion drone project.

"In a way, this is about shaming the Polish government, to show the absurdity of the abortion laws and to show what women have to do to get the right to choose," Diehl said. "Abortion in Poland is so stigmatized and demonized that there's nobody there who really fights for it."

"It's also to show our neighbors in Poland that women are helping each other."

Gomperts and Diehl say that while delivering abortion pills by drone isn't necessarily a sustainable solution, they hope it will shore up enough attention and mobilize activists to demand legal change. She hopes to expand the project to other countries in the future, such as the US.

But not everyone in Poland is thrilled about the drone's arrival. Gomperts says pro-life groups are planning to protest the event and are threatening to shoot it down before it lands.

Gomperts isn't bothered by this; she expected the project would be controversial.

"This is a sign that abortion rights are back on the agenda again in Poland, and this is necessary," she said.

"We'll see what happens. It's not so easy to shoot down a drone. They're efficient and speedy."

Follow Rachel Browne on Twitter: @rp_browne (https://twitter.com/rp_browne)

Watch the VICE News Documentary, "Abortion Rights in Ireland."

TOPICS: *europa (/topic/europe), germany (/topic/germany), poland (/topic/poland), women on waves (/topic/women-on-waves), abortion (/topic/abortion), abortion pills (/topic/abortion-pills), mifepristone (/topic/mifepristone), misoprostol (/topic/misoprostol)*

RECOMMENDED



(/video/inside-americas-billion-dollar-weed-business-the-grass-is-greener-trailer)



(/video/the-femicide-crisis-in-the-state-of-mexico-full-length)

Inside America's Billion-Dollar Weed Business: The Grass is Greener (Trailer) (/video/inside-americas-billion-dollar-weed-business-the-grass-is-greener-trailer)



(/video/gun-talk-with-young-cadets-excerpt-from-child-warriors-of-donetsk)

Gun Talk With Young Cadets (Excerpt from 'Child Warriors Of Donetsk') (/video/gun-talk-with-young-cadets-excerpt-from-child-warriors-of-donetsk)



(/article/this-week-on-the-line-liz-fields-discusses-americas-crisis-of-untested-rape-kits)

This Week On The Line: Liz Fields Discusses America's Crisis of Untested Rape Kits (/article/this-week-on-the-line-liz-fields-discusses-americas-crisis-of-untested-rape-kits)

The Femicide Crisis in the State of Mexico (Full Length) (/video/the-femicide-crisis-in-the-state-of-mexico-full-length)



Financial reality check

What sounds the most like you?

No matter who you are, get the know-how you need to make smart financial decisions.

Take Quiz 

Better Money Habits™

Powered by **Bank of America** 

Get started

MOST POPULAR



[\(/article/ontario-moves-to-restrict-bee-killing-pesticide-used-in-farming\)](#)

Ontario Moves to Restrict Bee-Killing Pesticide Used in Farming ([/article/ontario-moves-to-restrict-bee-killing-pesticide-used-in-farming](#))



[\(/article/new-york-prison-worker-arrested-for-allegedly-helping-killers-escape\)](#)

New York Prison Worker Arrested for Allegedly Helping Killers Escape ([/article/new-york-prison-worker-arrested-for-allegedly-helping-killers-escape](#))



[\(/article/the-cia-just-released-declassified-documents-related-to-the-911-attacks\)](#)

The CIA Just Released Declassified Documents Related to the 9/11 Attacks [\(/article/the-cia-just-released-declassified-documents-related-to-the-911-attacks\)](#)



(/article/tourists-jailed-after-stripping-on-sacred-mountain-to-be-deported-from-malaysia)

Tourists Jailed After Stripping on Sacred Mountain to be Deported From Malaysia (/article/tourists-jailed-after-stripping-on-sacred-mountain-to-be-deported-from-malaysia)



01:29 ▶ -murdered-women-of-the-state-of-mexico-trailer)

The Murdered Women of the State of Mexico (Trailer) (/video/the-murdered-women-of-the-state-of-mexico-trailer)



(/article/gunmen-steal-body-of-saddam-husseins-former-second-in-command-from-baghdad-airport)

Gunmen Steal Body of Saddam Hussein's Former Second in Command From Baghdad Airport (/article/gunmen-steal-body-of-saddam-husseins-former-second-in-command-from-baghdad-airport)



(/article/how-the-us-may-be-egging-on-the-growth-of-the-islamic-state-in-central-asia)

How the US May be Egging On the Growth of the Islamic State in Central Asia (/article/how-the-us-may-be-egging-on-the-growth-of-the-islamic-state-in-central-asia)



(/article/chinas-former-spy-chief-jailed-for-life-after-secret-trial)

China's Former Spy Chief Jailed For Life After Secret Trial (/article/chinas-former-spy-chief-jailed-for-life-after-secret-trial)



(/article/republicans-get-their-very-own-green-sugar-daddy)

Republicans Get Their Very Own Green Sugar Daddy (/article/republicans-get-their-very-own-green-sugar-daddy)



(/article/a-bipartisan-group-of-us-senators-would-like-to-re-ban-torture-again)

A Bipartisan Group of US Senators Would Like to Re-Ban Torture Again (/article/a-bipartisan-group-of-us-senators-would-like-to-re-ban-torture-again)



(/article/escaped-tiger-kills-man-following-floods-in-tbilisi)

Escaped Tiger Kills Man Following Floods in Tbilisi (/article/escaped-tiger-kills-man-following-floods-in-tbilisi)



09:41 ▶ -murdered-women-of-the-state-of-mexico-part-1)

The Murdered Women of the State of Mexico (Part 1) (/video/the-murdered-women-of-the-state-of-mexico-part-1)



Join the discussion...



bobconner · 5 hours ago

Good idea! I think I might buy a truckload of those abortion pills and drop them for free from drones into the parking lots of all Hobby Lobby stores.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share



Mrs. S. Jackson · 12 hours ago

Disgusting to use also the name Ciocia Basia which means Auntie Barbara for this abortion venture!, Saint Barbara is petron Saint of miners and her feast is celebrated on 4 th December in Poland!, the devil never sleeps!, I hope that the dron will be shot down before it lands on the Polish land!, the Germans were dropping all sorts of extermination stuff over Poland in 1943!! They just hate Poles who always stood up for God and the truth!, please pray for Poland. God Bless. BK.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share



aamicko losi → Mrs. S. Jackson · 12 hours ago

*****I agree that Debra`s blog is impressive, last thursday I bought a top of the range opel sincee geting a check for \$8351 this past four weeks and would you believe, 10k this past-munth . with-out any doubt it's my favourite-work I've ever had . I actually started seven months/ago and immediately earned at least \$76 per/hr .

You Can See It Out This Link.☺.☺.

◆◆☾ <http://www.ProfitDollers/MakeheastMoney/toEarn.com>



2 ^ | v · Reply · Share



Johnny Mac → Mrs. S. Jackson · 4 hours ago

You know God doesn't exist, right?

^ | v · Reply · Share



Don Langosta → Mrs. S. Jackson · 12 hours ago

You know, when you use nothing but exclamation points they kind of lose their meaning.

^ | v · Reply · Share



Leah · 12 hours ago

sad, sad, sad. So we're helping the current generation by killing the next? : (Skynet would be proud.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Don Langosta → Leah · 12 hours ago

I'm sure all these potentially aborted children will grow up to be well-adjusted and productive members of society.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



noddy → Don Langosta · 9 hours ago

Yes, and the aborted children would also have grown up the same I suppose which makes abortion seem a waste perhaps although I try not to judge on this.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



comin' get it! → noddy · 7 hours ago

How can you know that?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Az · 6 hours ago

“A Nation that kills its own children is a nation without hope.”

– Pope John Paul II

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



bobconner → Az · 5 hours ago

or better yet - "a nation without little boys is a boring place indeed"

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



cyninoregon → Az · an hour ago

Your pope is no one to me. I studied the Inquisition and the murder of women all through the ages as witches etc--so what kind of moral authority can the catholic church possibly represent? Finally, how are opus dei men like anton scalia observing the pope's words on global climate change, helping the poor, and gun control? Oh, they are ignoring their own church and pope? But we women who are not catholic and never have been should be denied access to birth control and abortion based on what the pope says? Can't you see the insane hypocrisy in that?

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Blind-Truth → Az · 6 hours ago

Now that is a transparent organization / state I can get behind. Your right they are the most open and honest around.....

(Sarcasm)

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Paul Menard · 10 hours ago

its less harmful overall to have legal abortions, and we clearly have enough people running about already

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



noddy → Paul Menard · 9 hours ago

Abortion has become acceptable worldwide but does that make it right? I am not judging, nor am I religious, just wondering if this is the best way to do things. The many risks physical and psychological risks to the mother using abortion pills or surgery are never mentioned by the abortion providers it seems. Should one human have the right to end the start of anothers life just because the latter is not a grown adult? Of course most governments are happy to have an abortion industry because it keeps the population down I suppose. It is a complex,deeply emotional issues to decide on.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Blind-Truth → noddy · 6 hours ago

As you clearly stated you are not going to judge right?
Then leave them alone.
It is not effecting your body, or your life.

You let the woman make her own life choices. It doesn't belong to you, me or the state / country in question.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Gjergi Kastrioti · 3 hours ago

Good on Germans for helping to reduce SLAVe population.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Joe333 · 7 hours ago

I'm sending belts over in drones to countries which have laws banning spanking.
Screw those stupid child abuse laws. The parent's right to not be inconvenienced by their



IN THE NEWS

AMERICAS (/TOPIC/AMERICAS)

CRIME & DRUGS (/TOPIC/CRIME-DRUGS)

(/article/autopsy-says-freddie-gray-died-after-sustaining-high-energy-injury-in-police-van)

Autopsy Says Freddie Gray Died After Sustaining 'High-Energy Injury' in Police Van

(/article/autopsy-says-freddie-gray-died-after-sustaining-high-energy-injury-in-police-van)

SHARE ➔

(/article/new-dashboard-video-shows-charleston-shooting-suspect-dylann-roofs-arrest)

New Dashboard Video Shows Charleston Shooting Suspect Dylann Roof's Arrest

(/article/new-dashboard-video-shows-charleston-shooting-suspect-dylann-roofs-arrest)

SHARE ➔

(/article/un-peacekeepers-accused-of-sexually-abusing-homeless-children-in-central-african-republic)

UN Peacekeepers Accused of Sexually Abusing 'Street Children' in Central African Republic
(/article/un-peacekeepers-accused-of-sexually-abusing-homeless-children-in-central-african-republic)

SHARE ➔

(/article/a-drone-is-flying-abortion-pills-from-germany-to-poland-this-weekend)

A Drone Is Flying Abortion Pills From Germany to Poland This Weekend
(/article/a-drone-is-flying-abortion-pills-from-germany-to-poland-this-weekend)

SHARE ➔

(/article/somebody-in-france-probably-ate-a-lamb-genetically-modified-to-have-a-jellyfish-gene)

Somebody in France Probably Ate a Lamb Genetically Modified to Have a Jellyfish Gene
(/article/somebody-in-france-probably-ate-a-lamb-genetically-modified-to-have-a-jellyfish-gene)

SHARE ➔

(/article/hillary-clinton-may-have-just-signaled-a-major-campaign-focus-with-ferguson-leaders)

Hillary Clinton May Have Just Signaled a Major Campaign Focus with Ferguson Leaders
(/article/hillary-clinton-may-have-just-signaled-a-major-campaign-focus-with-ferguson-leaders)

SHARE ➔

(/article/singapore-teen-who-insulted-former-leader-held-in-mental-institution-pending-sentencing)

Singapore Teen Who Insulted Former Leader Held in Mental Institution Pending Sentencing
(/article/singapore-teen-who-insulted-former-leader-held-in-mental-institution-pending-sentencing)

SHARE ➔

(/article/the-canadian-military-wants-to-use-stem-cells-to-help-its-soldiers-heal)

The Canadian Military Wants to Use Stem Cells to Help Its Soldiers Heal
(/article/the-canadian-military-wants-to-use-stem-cells-to-help-its-soldiers-heal)

SHARE ➔

MORE NEWS



FEATURES

Inside America's Billion-Dollar Weed Business: The Grass is Greener (Trailer) (/video/inside-americas-billion-dollar-weed-business-the-grass-is-greener-trailer)

Coming soon: VICE News meets investors cashing in on the legal marijuana market and finds out how fractured laws are causing the American market to miss out on the green rush.

01:08 ▶ de-americas-billion-dollar-weed-business-the-grass-is-greener-trailer)

The Femicide Crisis in the State of Mexico (Full Length) (/video/the-femicide-crisis-in-the-state-of-mexico-full-length)

VICE News investigates the murder of women in the State of Mexico, and meets the victims' relatives who continue to demand justice from authorities who seem incapable or unwilling to help.

29:46 ▶ -femicide-crisis-in-the-state-of-mexico-full-length)

VICE MAGAZINE'S
ANNUAL FICTION ISSUE
- Out Now -



Gun Talk With Young Cadets (Excerpt from 'Child Warriors Of Donetsk') (/video/gun-talk-with-young-cadets-excerpt-from-child-warriors-of-donetsk)

In this excerpt, VICE News speaks to young cadets about their experiences with guns, as they take a break from their military training at the Future Warrior Contest in Donetsk.

