



## 21ST CENTURY FEMINISM

## A nonprofit will fly a drone over Poland in an effort to deliver illegal abortion pills

June 23, 2015



iStock

Dutch-based nonprofit [Women on Waves](#) has announced plans to [fly a drone](#) over Slubice, Poland in order to drop abortifacients down to fellow women's rights activists. The activists will then deliver the drugs to women in need. In Poland, abortions are strictly illegal; the drone will take off from Frankfurt, Germany, where abortions are allowed. Roughly 48,000 underground abortions take place in Poland every year. From [their press release](#):

The Abortion drone will mark the different reality for Polish women to access to safe abortion services compared to other women in Europe. In almost all European countries abortion is legal, only in Poland, Ireland, and Malta abortion is illegal and women's rights are still violated.

[[Women on Waves](#)]

The drugs supplied by Women on Waves are approved by the World Health Organization. —*Jeva Lange*

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THIS JUST IN

## Senate authorizes 'fast-track' authority for trade bill

4:55 p.m. ET

The Senate [voted](#) 60-38 Wednesday to expand President

Barack Obama's trade powers, giving him "fast-track" authority to help him seal a 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership by letting him present trade deals to Congress for only a yes or no vote, with no amendments. The bill now heads to Obama's desk to be signed into law.

The vote is considered a major victory for Obama, who found an unlikely ally in House Republicans after House Democrats pushing for U.S. labor protections tried to block the deal. The Trans-Pacific Partnership would cover roughly 40 percent of the global economy.

—*Samantha Rollins*

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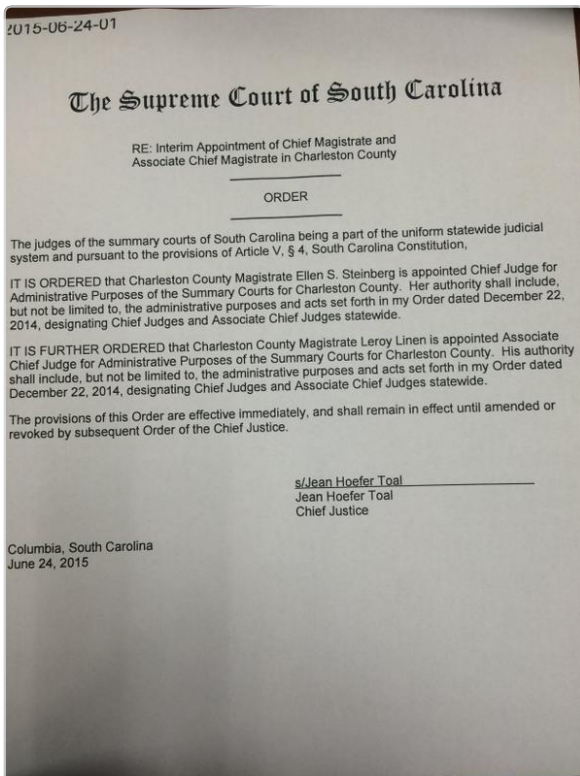
THIS JUST IN

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**Judge at Dylann Roof's hearing replaced under South Carolina Supreme Court order**

4:08 p.m. ET

The judge who oversaw the hearing of alleged Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof has been replaced, according to a South Carolina Supreme Court order. Chief Magistrate James Gosnell drew criticism recently when he claimed to his court that [the alleged shooter's family members were victims](#), too.



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**JUST IN: Chief Magistrate James Gosnell replaced, according to S.C. Supreme Court order.**

[#chsnews](#) [#CharlestonShooting](#)

3:47 PM - 24 Jun 2015

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“We are going to reach out to everyone, all victims, and we will touch them. We have victims, nine

of them. But, we also have victims on the other side," Gosnell said. "There are victims on this young man's side of the family."

Gosnell is also accused of [having used a racial slur](#) during a hearing roughly a decade ago, and is known to participate in [Confederate re-enactments](#). Gosnell has maintained he used the word in the context of quoting another party.

—*Jeva Lange*

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LETHAL INJECTION

## **Why the government won't be executing anyone — including**

# Dzhokhar Tsarnaev — anytime soon

3:44 p.m. ET



Photo by Georgia Department of Corrections/Getty Images

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was officially [sentenced to death](#) on charges of his involvement in the Boston Marathon bombing, but it is [unlikely he will be executed](#) for a long time to come. Due to a review of the federal death penalty, the Justice Department has put a moratorium on executions. And, even if executions *were* allowed, there are no lethal injection drugs around anyway due to shortages, a lack of manufacturers, and complications with drug combinations.

It is rare for someone to receive a federal death sentence, too. Since it was reinstated in 1988, [only three inmates](#) have been put to death. A federal execution hasn't taken place

since 2003; even at the state level, the average inmate executed in 2013 had been on death row for more than 15 years. —*Jeva Lange*

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THIS JUST IN

## **Suspected Charleston shooter Dylann Roof will likely face federal hate crime charges**

3:36 p.m. ET



AP Photo/Chuck Burton

The Justice Department will likely



file federal hate crime charges against suspected Charleston church shooter Dylann Roof, 21, federal law enforcement officials said Wednesday. Roof already faces nine counts of murder and could also face the death penalty in state court.

Even with the existing charges, the federal government felt compelled to address the apparently racially motivated attack that left nine dead after an evening bible study at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston. One law official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is not allowed to publicly discuss the case, [told \*The New York Times\*](#), "This directly fits the hate crime statute. This is exactly what it was created for." The timing of the charges remains undecided. —*Becca Stanek*

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# The White House gets it. Wall Street gets it. Silicon Valley gets it.

FREDDIE GRAY

## The DHS worried Baltimore protesters would vandalize natural gas containers

3:17 p.m. ET



Win McNamee/Getty Images

Following the death of Freddie Gray on April 19, Department of Homeland Security officials feared a "catastrophic incident" if protesters were to target a plant holding liquid natural gas containers. The information, which [was obtained by Vice](#) under the Freedom of Information Act, showed that the Exelon Corporation had contacted the FBI with concerns that their security could be breached. "Given the current scope of activity and

expected protests this upcoming weekend, the potential exists for these containers to be targeted for vandalism or worse," a [DHS intelligence update](#) said.

Another document revealed that 400 Federal Protective Service officers were on site to protect "high-risk federal facilities." Additionally, 1,783 National Guard troops were assigned to Baltimore; of them, 298 were deployed "on mission."

Gray, 25, was arrested April 12 in Baltimore and died a week later after suffering an unexplained spinal injury in police custody. [Yesterday](#), an autopsy report obtained by the *Baltimore Sun* suggested Gray's "high-energy injury" was likely caused when the police van he was riding in — with shackles and no seatbelt — suddenly slowed down. —*Jeva Lange*

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THIS JUST IN

## Man with meat cleaver detained outside Tsarnaev sentencing

3:03 p.m. ET

A man who allegedly had a meat cleaver in his vehicle outside the federal courthouse during the Boston Marathon bomber's sentencing was detained by police on Wednesday, according to [local news outlets](#).

Police surrounded the man as he sat on the ground laughing and smiling, the *Boston Herald* [reported](#). Authorities took the man into custody and removed the meat cleaver from his car.





**Christina H...**  
@HagerWBZ

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Police with meat cleaver just taken from suspect's car outside [#Boston](#) Federal Court during Tsarnaev sentencing [#wbz](#)  
12:59 PM - 24 Jun 2015

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The court was in recess for lunch

when police searched the man's vehicle, and the sentencing, in which Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was formally sentenced to death for the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings that killed three people and injured hundreds, proceeded after recess as usual. —*Emily Goldberg*

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ELECTION 2016

## **At least one presidential candidate isn't rushing to condemn the Confederate flag — and he's a Democrat**

2:55 p.m. ET



Scott Olson/Getty Images

*As Mother Jones reported*

yesterday, all the presidential candidates had commented on the controversy over the Confederate flag that broke out after the massacre of nine black civilians at a church in Charleston, South Carolina — except former Sen. Jim Webb of Virginia (D), who has a long history of defending the rebel army and its banner.

Well, Webb has finally spoken, saying in a [Facebook post](#) that while the flag has "been wrongly used for racist purposes in recent decades," it would behoove us to "also remember that honorable Americans fought on both sides in the Civil War." He said we have to respect "the complicated history of the Civil War," and notably did not call for any of the Confederate flags on government property to come down.

[As \*The Week's\* Marc Ambinder recently pointed out](#), the racist nature of the flag hasn't been confined to recent decades: "There is no revolutionary cause associated with the flag, other than

the right for Southern states to determine how best to subjugate black people and to perpetuate slavery."

At any rate, while the debate over the Confederate flag rages on, we can be sure of one thing: Jim Webb didn't do his long-shot campaign against Hillary Clinton any favors this week. —*Ryu Spaeth*

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