

ACTIVISM

Women's Group Sends 'Abortion Drone' to Country That Bans Abortion

The World Health Organization estimates that 47,000 women die as the result of illegal abortions every year.

By [Michael Arria](#) / [AlterNet](#) | June 23, 2015

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Women on Waves is a pro-choice non-profit created in 1999 by Dutch physician Rebecca Gomperts. Its objective is to bring reproductive health services to countries with strict abortion laws. Its latest project will



send a drone full of day-after pills to Poland to assist women and raise awareness of the country's restrictive policies.

Abortion is illegal in Poland, except in cases of rape or incest. It is estimated that around 48,000 underground abortions take place in Poland every year. In 2003, Women on Waves sailed to Poland, introducing the abortion pill mifepristone and spreading information about reproductive health. This prompted a four-month investigation of the group to determine whether or not it had broken any Polish laws. Women on Waves was cleared, due to lack of evidence, but a study conducted by the official Polish polling company Centrum Banania Opinii Spolecznej concluded that support for liberalization of abortion laws had increased as a result of the trip.

In a press release, Women on Waves said that, "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."

It's impossible to know exactly how many women die each year as a result of

illegal abortions, but the World Health Organization estimates the number is around 47,000.

Michael Arria is a contributing writer and associate editor at AlterNet. He is the author of [Medium Blue: The Politics of MSNBC](#). Follow @MichaelArria on Twitter.

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