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Drone delivers abortion pill to women in Northern Ireland

In a protest against the country's abortion laws, women's advocacy groups airdrop medicine using a remote-controlled aircraft.



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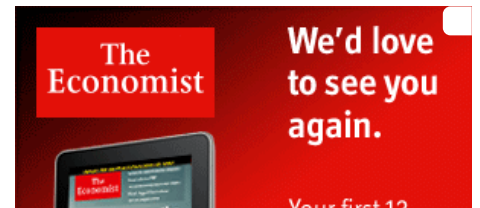
Tech Culture

June 22, 2016
3:21 AM PDT



by **Michelle Starr**
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Women's advocacy groups have used a drone to send abortion pills to women in Northern Ireland. In a protest

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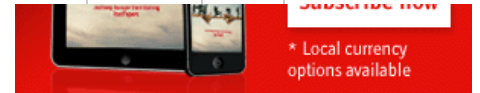
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Women on Waves conducted its first abortion pill drone flight in 2015.

Mark Godefroy/Women on Waves



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ireland and the Republic of Ireland, Dutch group **Women on Waves** teamed up with Northern Irish group **Alliance for Choice**, Irish group **Rosa** and Northern Irish group **Labour Alternative** to airlift the medicine.

The drone was flown across the border from County Louth in the Republic of Ireland to Narrow Water Castle in County Down, just after 10 a.m. local time on June 21. Women there took pills containing the abortifacient drugs mifepristone and misoprostol, which are **listed as essential medicines** by the World Health Organisation.

In Northern Ireland, which is part of the UK but **not covered by its Abortion Act**, it is unlawful to perform an abortion except in the case where it is required to save the life of the mother, or if the pregnancy poses a risk to the physical or mental health of the mother. Penalties can be as severe as life imprisonment, although this occurs rarely; a Belfast woman earlier this year was **handed a suspended sentence** for taking abortion pills procured over the internet.

In the Republic of Ireland, it is unlawful to perform an abortion unless the mother's life is at risk, with a potential sentence of 14 years' imprisonment.



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If a woman in either country wants an abortion, she generally has to travel to the UK mainland to get one from a private clinic, at personal expense. According to statistics from the UK Department of Health, at least 3,451 women **travelled to England and Wales for abortions in 2015**. Just **16 abortions were performed in Northern Ireland** during 2014 and 2015.

And of course, this number doesn't include the women who are trapped in Ireland because they cannot afford the cost of the trip and the private clinic, or cannot obtain a passport.

"Abortion is criminalised in both Northern Ireland and the Republic. We sent the pills across the border today as an act of solidarity with women in NI who are currently facing prosecutions," said Rosa's Rita Harrold in a statement. "This is outrageous. Today's action is a clear message of intent -- north and south, we will build an unstoppable movement of women and young people until women have the right to control their own bodies."

According to Women on Waves, the fact that the countries have different laws means it's not illegal to deliver abortion pills via drone across the border, and the **UK's laws regarding electronic prescriptions** are still applicable in Northern Ireland. The drone also delivered legal prescriptions from a doctor registered with the EU.

Police officers were nearby to photograph the event, but did not intervene.

Women on Waves conducted its first abortion pill drone flight in **June 2015**, delivering the drugs to Poland from Germany.



Women swallow abortion pills in Northern Ireland.

Women on Waves

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Abortion Drone Northern Ireland / Ireland



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'Independence Day: Resurgence' has plenty of bang, but no breathing room (spoiler-free review)

This is director Roland Emmerich at his spectacular, destructive best, but unlike certain alien death beams, the "Resurgence" cast never quite hits its mark.

CNET > Tech Culture > 'Independence Day: Resurgence' has plenty of bang, but no breathing room (spoiler-free review)

Tech Culture

June 20, 2016
10:00 PM PDT



by **Luke Lancaster**
@lglancaster

I don't know if **Roland Emmerich** holds the record for most landmarks destroyed, but he's definitely in the top five.

The director has blown up the White House at least twice. He flooded New York City. He had Godzilla nest in Madison Square Garden. He visited ruin on John Cusack's career. Keep that all in mind when I say that "**Independence Day: Resurgence**" is Emmerich at his destructive best.

Two decades after the events of 1996's "**Independence Day**," humanity has come together and co-opted the alien tech salvaged from the first invading force. The world has done everything it can to prepare in case aliens ever come back.

The 20-year jump offers an opportunity for the sequel to do some interesting world-building, but that falls by the wayside as soon as the explosions start. And they start early. There's hardly a reprieve for the remainder of the 2-hour running time.



Modern special effects mean everything can be bigger, but not necessarily better, in "Resurgence."

20th Century Fox

Emmerich, who was hemmed in by '90s special effects when he made the first "Independence Day," has no such restraint with "Resurgence." Everything is bigger. The sheer scale makes it a big-screen spectacle, but there's little art to it. There's also no shot as definitive as an alien mother ship obliterating the White House with a single focused beam.

It's technically and visually marvelous, but it's hard not to get a little fatigued before the big finish . The was also little room for escalation after the initial, impressive reveals, which makes the ending feel flat.

But the real problem isn't the borderline tiresome carnage. It's the cast.

Returning characters played by Jeff Goldblum, Brent Spiner and Judd Hirsch manage to make hay with their screen time and inject enough enthusiasm to keep "Resurgence" from flatlining, but their efforts can't save the new cast.

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After a throwaway explanation for Will Smith's notable absence, "Resurgence" largely hands over the reins to new cast members fronted by Jessie T Usher (playing the son of Smith's character) and Liam Hemsworth (not Thor, the other one).

Usher's and Hemsworth's characters spend the early parts of the movie competing

over who has the bigger chip on their shoulder and the later parts shooting their way from one plot point to the next. Then, more and more characters get thrown at the screen. The movie should be commended for its diverse cast, but "Resurgence" spends so much time jumping between cameos and the horde of new faces that you never really get the chance to connect with anyone.

Everyone gets a character moment or two, but the front-and-center newcomers don't seem comfortable enough to indulge in the cheesy blockbusterness of it all. The movie suffers for it.



Actors Jeff Goldblum and Brett Spiner return in "Independence Day: Resurgence."

20th Century Fox

"Resurgence" is exactly what you expect, down to the predictable story beats, the laughably earnest dialogue, the fundamental misunderstanding of science and the plot holes deep enough to reach Earth's gooey delicious center. But that's all beside the point. You should never have expected it to be anything else.

"It's definitely bigger than the last one," quips Goldblum in the trailer. Thanks for summing that up, Jeff. The thing is, he's not wrong.

Tags: Crave, Tech Culture

DISCUSS: 'INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE' HAS PLENTY...

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