

## Women on Waves blocked from Morocco

MOROCCO | OCTOBER 4, 2012 | BY: TOM GOULDING |

### RELATED TOPICS

- **Morocco**  
(<http://www.examiner.com/topic/morocco>)
- **women**  
(<http://www.examiner.com/topic/women>)
- **Organization**  
(<http://www.examiner.com/topic/organization>)
- **Campaign**  
(<http://www.examiner.com/topic/campaign>)

[Women](http://www.examiner.com/topic/women) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/women>) on Waves, an [organization](http://www.examiner.com/topic/organization) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/organization>) dedicated to providing abortions and pregnancy advice from anchored boats, was prevented from entering the Moroccan port of Smir on Thursday.

The Dutch [campaign](http://www.examiner.com/topic/campaign) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/campaign>) group purposely set anchor in international waters outside

of [Morocco](http://www.examiner.com/topic/morocco) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/morocco>) after receiving an invitation from the Moroccan youth group “Alternative Movement for Individual Freedoms.”

Upon arrival, the entire port of Smir was blocked by Moroccan authorities, preventing the organization from operating in the country.

The Dutch ship is able to provide legal medical abortions for women who are up to six-and-a-half weeks pregnant, if anchored in international waters. They aim to reduce the number of illegally performed abortions, which can lead to excruciating health risks for the women exposed. In fact, Women on Waves claim that 600 – 800 domestic abortions take place in Morocco every day.

The women’s organization has previously visited Ireland, Poland, Portugal and Spain over the past 11 years.



**Tom Goulding**, Headlines Examiner