



## International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion

### Campaigning for safe abortion: highlights in 2014

#### **January –**

- The campaign in Spain to protect the current abortion law takes off and spreads across Europe.
- A court in Argentina rules that a 14-year old rape victim can have an abortion, overturning a lower court decision.
- A Uganda study finds that treating complications of unsafe abortion cost the health system an estimated \$13.9 million in 2010 and would cost up to \$20.8 million to cope with all cases.

#### **February**

- Pope's global survey reveals more Catholics support abortion than previously thought.
- Laboratory reports claiming to detect misoprostol in blood, which have been used in attempts to incriminate women for self-inducing abortion, shown to be false.
- Bolivia's Constitutional Court ends the requirement for judicial authorization for women seeking abortion where it is permitted by law (rape, statutory rape, incest, kidnapping not followed by marriage, risk to the woman's health and life).

#### **March**

- State hospitals in Turkey effectively abolished provision of legal abortion through changes in the appointments system, after the government fails to change the law openly due to protests in support of the law.
- Solidarity request in support of threats against abortion rights circulated from Lithuania.
- A high court in Guyana ruled on a case to allow nurses and other mid-level health care providers to provide medical abortions under a doctor's supervision as per the law.

#### **April**

- A 10-year-old Senegalese girl who became pregnant with twins after being raped by a neighbour is forced to continue the pregnancy. The rapist, at least, is arrested.
- El Salvador group Citizens for the Decriminalization of Abortion launches "We are all the 17" campaign to request pardon for 17 women in prison for illegal abortion unjustly, a campaign that has been taken up globally by many other NGOs since.
- Probe demanded after woman aborts in hospital bathroom in Rome, Italy.
- Speech of feminist member of the Polish Parliament to the UN Commission on Population & Development calls on all parliamentarians to have the courage to take on tough issues such as abortion, as the lives of women and girls around the world hang in the balance.

#### **May**

- International Campaign for Women's Right to Safe Abortion launches statement on "Safe abortion and the post-2015 agenda" signed by hundreds of groups and individuals around the world, calling on all relevant UN agencies and bodies to undertake pro-active educational efforts on women's need for safe abortion and put women's right to safe abortion on the post-2015 agenda.
- It is reported that abortion pills are being smuggled into Saudi Arabia from Bahrain, and sold illegally.
- The Kenyan Ministry of Health withdraws the national guidelines on safe abortion despite 2010 Constitutional reform that expanded grounds for legal abortion.
- Re-launch of the May 28 International Day of Action for Women's Health.

#### **June**

- DIGNA- A new Latin American and Caribbean campaign for abortion to be legal following rape is launched.
- New Zealand Green Party calls for full decriminalization of abortion.

## July

- International Human Rights Clinic, University of Chicago, in partnership with National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum and Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health in the USA publish "Replacing Myths with Facts: Sex-Selective Abortion Laws in the United States".
- Chilean President Michelle Bachelet faces fierce conservative opposition to allowing abortion on grounds of rape, non-viable pregnancy and life-threatening pregnancy complications, after a 17-year-old girl turned up at a Santiago public hospital near death from bleeding.
- Plea to Melinda Gates: Stop Stigmatizing Abortion!
- India launches new initiative to improve access to safe abortion care at a two-day consultation with nearly 200 representatives of federal and state governments, civil society organizations, development partners and medical professionals – a national training package on comprehensive abortion care and a mass media campaign to raise public awareness that legal, safe abortion services are available.

## August

- UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women cites denial of legal abortion services as human rights violations and calls on Peru to expand access to legal abortion.
- Access to abortion services, legalized in 1973, is often touted as an example of Tunisia's progressive approach to women's rights. However, activists and organizations warn that use of such services is facing increasing social stigmatization.
- South Africa's Minister of Social Development calls for reproductive justice and access to safe abortion.
- Documentary "Las libres" on Mexican women incarcerated for "homicide" after abortions gain their freedom
- Ireland: case of raped young migrant denied an abortion hits the news and causes widespread protest

## September

- Speech of former President Chissano of Mozambique on the occasion of the ICPD Special Session of the UN General Assembly, at a side event convened by the Government of South Africa, says health services must be strengthened to end unsafe abortion as a major killer of women and adolescent girls; and access to safe, legal abortion services should be expanded.
- Disappearance and death of a woman in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who was taken by a stranger in a car for a clandestine abortion discovered.
- Website My Decision in New Zealand lists GPs who are opposed to abortion because women have a right to know who does not offer contraception or abortion referrals because of their religious views.
- Conservative Spanish Government abandons restrictive abortion law due to mass opposition. Justice Minister resigns and leaves government.

**- 28 September International Day of Action for the Decriminalization of Abortion and in support of Safe, Legal Abortion has more activities in more countries than ever before!**



Dominican Republic poster campaign

## October

- More and more national and international women's rights advocates and organizations focus on the importance of access to safe abortion and contraception services for young women.
- Pro-choice campaigners call for referendum on abortion in Northern Ireland.
- Following the raid of a health clinic in Penang, Malaysia, a young woman has been wrongfully arrested and sentenced to 12 months in prison for obtaining a legal abortion.

## November

- For the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence 25 November-10 December  
A call to mobilize for the decriminalization of abortion in Chile, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Suriname, Dominican Republic
- Luxemburg – abortion up to 12 weeks of pregnancy decriminalized.

## December

- Years of efforts in Canada to get approval for mifepristone–misoprostol medical abortion may finally bear fruit.
- Australian journalist says: It's time to talk positively about abortion!!

**VERY BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND THE COMING YEAR  
TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SAFE ABORTION!!**



**French collective slogan:  
I had an abortion and I'm fine, thank you.**