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Opinion

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Hotline dodges Chile's pro-life laws, tells women how to self-abort at home

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Randall O'Bannon

October 29, 2012 (NRLN) - The nation of Chile really sticks in the craw of international abortion advocates. They have tried to argue for years that abortion limits lead to higher maternal mortality rates. But the example of Chile, with legal protections of the unborn since 1989 and continuing declines in maternal mortality rates, conclusively disproves that pro-abortion talking point. (See [here](#).)

So what do they do? At first, they tried to argue that there were really a lot more women dying from abortions in Chile than government statistics were reporting. That claim doesn't hold up to scrutiny (see the link above). But then, they began to push to set up a hotline to tell women

how to use a commonly available drug to abort their babies.

That this will certainly put more women's lives at risk is ignored or even denied. Bringing abortion to the women of Chile is all that seems to matter.

Let's discuss "The Chilean Safe Abortion Hotline: Assisting Women With Illegal, But Safe, Misoprostol Abortion," which appeared at RHRealityCheck.org on October 18. (Misoprostol is a widely available anti-ulcer drug.) The author, Emily Anne, shares her experience as one of the operators for the hotline passing along helpful information on how to use of misoprostol in such a way as to cause an abortion.

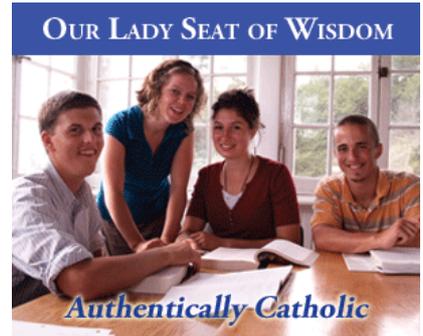
The abortion hotline is open four hours a day, 365 days a year, and staffed by volunteers like Ms. Anne. The author says that "Women call from all over Chile, and they are offered information on the correct dosage and administration of misoprostol, its contraindications and side effects, as well as information on abortion law and legal rights." Anne says that since the launch of the hotline in 2009, they have received more than 10,000 calls, up to 15 a day.

There are similar hotlines in Argentina, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, many working with organizations such as "Women on Waves," the group that launched the so-called "Abortion Ship" in 2001, aiming to bring abortion to pro-life countries like Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Ecuador, and most recently, Morocco. While the abortion ship fortunately generated more publicity than it did business (it is unclear whether any abortions were ever actually performed on the boat), it did focus attention on the abortion laws in these countries and promoted the cause of chemical abortions.

It was after being shut out of the ports of many of these countries that Woman on Waves began promoting many of these chemical abortion hotlines. Anne's account gives us more details about how these hotlines work and the sorts of information (and misinformation) that is shared with these vulnerable women.

Ms. Anne notes that misoprostol is used in the United States in combination with the abortifacient RU-486. But there are groups such as the World Health Organization (WHO), Ipas, and the International Consortium for Medical Abortion that are promoting or endorsing the use of misoprostol alone around the world.

The reasons are obvious. Though Ms. Anne says that it is sold on the black market for about \$250 for a 12-pill dose, the retail cost of misoprostol is usually quite cheap, going for just a couple of dollars a pill, at most. And because its primary approved use is for addressing ulcers, it is widely available around the globe, unlike RU486, which as an explicit abortifacient, is banned in many countries.



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