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# The Japan Times

## Drone carrying abortion pills flown to Northern Ireland in defiance of 1861 law

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A drone carrying abortion pills was flown into Northern Ireland on Tuesday by groups protesting the stringent anti-abortion regimes operating on both sides of the Irish border.

The drone crossed from the Republic of Ireland near the village of Omeath over a narrow stretch of water that separates both states on the island.

“Abortion is criminalized in both Northern Ireland and the Republic,” Rita Harrold, from the abortion rights group Rosa, said in a statement.

“We sent the pills across the border today as an act of solidarity with women in Northern Ireland who are currently facing prosecutions,” she said.

Although Northern Ireland is under British rule, its abortion laws are determined by the local Parliament, which has refused to extend the relatively liberal abortion rights in place across the rest of the United Kingdom.

In Northern Ireland, women who undergo a termination or procure one for someone else theoretically face life imprisonment under a law dating back to 1861.

In the Republic of Ireland, the penalty can be 14 years in jail.

In April, a court in Belfast imposed a suspended sentence on a 21-year-old woman for importing drugs online to induce a miscarriage.

She told the court she could not afford to fly to England for a termination. Similar cases are pending.

When the drone landed in Northern Ireland, two women swallowed the pills, Mifepristone and Misoprostol, which had been prescribed by a doctor and can be taken up to nine weeks after becoming pregnant.

The protesters said no law had been broken. Police monitored the delivery but took no action.

The campaigners later traveled to Belfast to picket outside Belfast High Court, the venue for an appeal against a 2015 ruling that found the current laws governing abortion in Northern Ireland breached the European Convention on Human Rights.



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**Tout simplement bluffant**  
 “ Franchement, on ne peut plus s'en passer. Du coup, j'ai commandé plusieurs bouteilles. Plus de corvée de pack a transporter. Les sodas sont bluffants. ”