

Drone used to fly abortion pills across the border

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Published 22/06/2016 | 02:30



Courtney Robinson of Labour Alternative opening a package of abortion pills which were delivered using a drone by choice activists from the Irish Republic, at Narrow Water Castle near Warrenpoint in County Down. Photo: Liam McBurney/PA Wire

Pro-choice activists have used a drone to fly abortion pills across the border from the Republic to the North.

The stunt, described as an act of solidarity, aimed to highlight the strict laws around terminations that exist on both sides of the border.

A number of PSNI officers who were at the landing site at Narrow Water Castle in Co Down yesterday morning spoke to organisers and recorded the events on video. However, no action was taken to confiscate the pills, which had been prescribed by a doctor. The drone had earlier taken off on the other side of Carlingford Lough, from Omeath in Co Louth. A garda spokesperson said they were not aware of there having been any garda presence at that location.

Courtney Robinson (18), from Belfast, who took the tablets, said: "The reason we are doing this is to highlight that these pills are available to women who are not able to travel outside of Northern Ireland for an abortion.

"I have no concerns. I know the pills are safe. As long as politicians in Stormont and the Dáil continue to ignore human rights we will continue our campaign," she added.

The drugs, Mifepristone and Misoprostol, can be taken up to nine weeks into a pregnancy and have been approved for use by the World Health Organization since 2005.

The event was organised by a collaboration of pro-choice groups - Alliance For Choice, Rosa, Labour Alternative and Women On Waves.

In the North, the maximum penalty for administering a drug to induce miscarriage is life imprisonment. In April a 21-year-old woman was given a suspended sentence in Belfast after she bought drugs on the internet to induce a miscarriage because she could not afford to fly to England.

Irish Independent

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Reflection

13 minutes ago

This article should contain a link to the following Irish Independent article which highlights the dangers of taking these drugs without strict medical supervision.

<http://www.independent.ie/tablet/news/medics-warn-of-dangers-as-1000-abortion-pills-seized-this-year-30697579.html>

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