NEDERLANDS ENGLISH ESPAÑOL PORTUGUÊS BAHASA INDONESIA 中文 CARIBIANA PAPIAMENTS SURINAME العربية AFRIQUE AFRICA

NETHERLANDS WORLDWIDE

About RNW Contact Register

NEW: RNW Lite website | Login or via: ▼

MONDAY 1 OCTOBER RNW - NEWS AND ANALYSIS FROM THE NETHERLANDS IN 10 LANGUAGES, WORLDWIDE 24/7 ON RADIO, TV AND ONLINE



Abortion boat sets sail for Morocco

Published on: 1 October 2012 - 9:14am | By Jannie Schipper ((C) Women on Waves)

More about: abortion Morocco Rebecca Gomperts the Netherlands Women on Waves WoW

The 'abortion boat' is setting sail for the Arab world for the first time. Dutch organisation Women on Waves is launching a campaign in Morocco this week, in cooperation with local youth group M.A.L.I.

In most Arab countries, including Morocco, abortion is illegal unless the life of the mother is in danger. Tunisia is the only country with more liberal abortion laws. According to unofficial estimates, between 600 and 800 women in Morocco undergo an illegal abortion every day. The World Health Organisation estimates that worldwide, some 47,000 women die annually as the result of unsafe abortions.

Women on Waves was founded 11 years ago to offer sexual health services including medical abortions, on board a Dutch ship outside the territorial waters of countries where abortion is illegal. WoW was invited to Morocco by M.A.L.I. (Mouvement Alternatif pour les Libertés Individuelles), a liberal youth group in the country. In a petition launched last month, 'Mali' said they want to "put an end to illegal practices that present many dangers by providing access to legal abortion, health checked to save lives.

Illegal abortions in Morocco are sometimes performed by professionals, but these are expensive. 'There is a huge social inequality in Morocco, like in other countries where abortion is illegal,' says WoW founder Rebecca Gomperts. 'While girls from the upper class know the doctors who can get them a safe operation, those without access to money or information are forced to rely on dangerous methods carried out by untrained people.'

Public debate about the abortion laws in Morocco is a relatively recent development. Gynaecologist Chafiq Chraibi launched the movement against illegal abortion (AMLAC) two years ago and organised a conference on the subject in June this year.

Some representatives of the Islamic PJD party have stated in the media that abortion should be legal in certain cases such as rape or incest. There are different opinions about the issue among Islamic scholars. According to some schools of thought, abortion is allowed in the first weeks of pregnancy, while others prohibit it altogether. Some women's rights activists in Morocco also oppose legalisation of abortion, claiming that there are other problems that should be addressed first.

Medical abortion only

Women on Waves does not perform operations but promotes medical abortion with pills. The group works with local women's organisations to establish safe abortion help lines and provide information on sexual and reproductive health issues.

Bookmark/Search this post with:













Printer-friendly version

DISCUSSION

Listening guide RNW Facebook RNW on Twitter

RNW on Youtube

WORLD NEWS

Faint hopes as Moscow court hears Pussy

Cambodia jails political activist for 20 y... Three NATO soldiers killed in Afghan blast...

Georgia votes in tense parliamentary polls Dominant Watson leads Aussie charge Maldives' first elected president on trial Typhoon Jelawat bears down on Japanese

Japan cabinet resigns ahead of reshuffle Obama throws down gauntlet to Romney

Li says she has learnt from China Open

more

RNW IN TRANSITION

Radio Netherlands Worldwide is currently shifting its focus from Dutch news to free speech.



RNW ON FACEBOOK



Radio Netherlands Worldwide on Facebook

Like

9.082 people like Radio Netherlands Worldwide.









VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS



Care for troubled kids in the Dutch countryside



RNW partnerships for the future

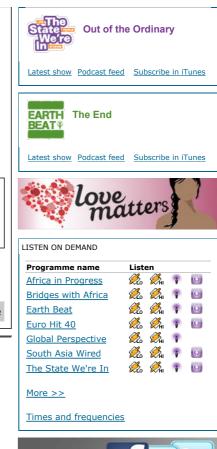
This week, Radio Netherlands Worldwide held a two-day conference with over...



Tibetan "Flame of Truth" comes to Amsterdam Several hundred people gathered in the centre of Amsterdam this week

1 of 3 10/1/12 11:15 AM

ost new comment	
Please be reminded all comments must be in English, short and to the point - guideline 250 words Abusive and inappropriate comments will be removed.	
our name: *	
Anonymous	
-mail: *	
he content of this field is kept private and wi	ill not be shown publicly.
ountry:	
comment: *	
Allowed HTML tags: <a> <<dd> </dd>	<pre> <cite> <code> <dl> <dt></dt></dl></code></cite></pre>
 Lines and paragraphs breal 	k automatically
	e-mail addresses turn into links automatically.
wes page additioned and c	· ·
	Sa





BBC World Love Matters Service Media Network NHK World Pick of the Day Deutsche Welle Video Radio Australia South Asia Wired Radio Sweden RCI RFI Swissinfo VOA

Join us on

More from RNW

Flickr

You Tube

LATEST NEWS ON **FUTURE OF**

RADIO NETHERLANDS

2 of 3 10/1/12 11:15 AM



RNW - NEWS AND ANALYSIS FROM THE NETHERLANDS IN 10 LANGUAGES, WORLDWIDE 24/7 ON RADIO, TELEVISION AND ONLINE

3 of 3 10/1/12 11:15 AM