

- <u>Crime</u>
- Politics
- Business
- <u>Sports</u>
- <u>Food</u>
- <u>Health</u>
- <u>Weird</u>
- <u>Technology</u>
- Entertainment

- <u>Crime</u>
- <u>Health</u>

## Dutch abortion ship seized by Guatemalan navy

By Janene Pieters on February 24, 2017 - 12:05



Women on Waves. Photo: Women on Waves

The abortion ship of Dutch organization Women on Waves was seized by the Guatemalan navy on Thursday. The women of the nonprofit organization were giving abortions to women who were 10 weeks pregnant or less just outside the territorial waters of Guatemala. The country only allows abortions to women who are in life threatening danger, the Volkskrant reports.

The navy blocked access to the ship prior to a Women on Waves press conference in the Port of San Jose, according to the newspaper. According to a statement by the navy, Women on Waves is acting contrary to the country's laws on the "right to live".

Rebecca Gomperts, founder of Women on Waves, writes on Twitter that the navy's actions are in violation of the law, because all of the organization's papers to enter the country are in order.

The ship is now in military custody. There are six women on board that work for the organization, including one Dutch, Women on Waves said on their website.

Guatemala is the abortion ship's first destination since it moored in the marina of the northern Moroccan tourist town of Smir in 2012. The ship's arrival in Guatemala was met with protests. "Why don't you go to the Netherlands to murder children", one person shouted, according to Rueters.

Women on Waves decided on Guatemala for their destination because, according to them, 65 thousand illegal abortions happen in the country each year. On the ship women that are 10 weeks pregnant or less and want an abortion, are given an abortion pill. They then stay on the ship for a few hours, under the supervision of doctors.

In 2015 Women on Waves also delivered abortion pills to Poland by drone.

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A contrast of the design of th	Unrediccionales del Océano Pacifico de la República de Guatemaia, a partir de la fecha 22FE2021 con fecha de vencimento 22X472017, periodo durante el cual no podrá ocupara puestos de trabajo público o privado que impliquen remuneración alguna, ni establecerse comercialmente en el país, de conformidad con el Artículo 15 de la Ley de Migración, esta Autorización para Navegar, no exime de la presentación de documentos o del cumplimiento de los requisitos impuestos de Guatemaia. NOTA: El Capitan de la embarcación se debrá reportar a la Capitania de Pareto vía ratio 11/F canal 16, perejo as uzres o araque entenes y de República, así como portar su 10014 DE ZARPE, establecida como documento de control de las embarcaciones que se hacen a la mar.
Women on Waves @WomenOnWaves_	Follow
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