

# URGENT ACTION

## WOMAN STILL DENIED LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT

**Beatriz, a woman from El Salvador, has still not been given the life-saving termination to her pregnancy. The targets for this UA have been updated to apply further pressure on the authorities. Each day that passes places Beatriz at greater risk.**

**Beatriz** suffers from health problems that put her life at risk while she is pregnant. She has a history of lupus, an autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks the person's own tissue. She also has other medical conditions, including kidney disease related to the lupus. She also suffered serious complications during her previous pregnancy. Beatriz has been diagnosed as being at high risk of pregnancy-related death if she continues with the pregnancy. Three scans have confirmed that the foetus is anencephalic (lacking a large part of the brain and skull). Almost all babies with anencephaly die before birth or within a few hours or days after birth.

Now four-and-a-half months into her pregnancy, Beatriz wants a termination in order to save her life and she has been requesting this for over a month. The medical professionals are yet to act in accordance with her wishes, as they will not carry out an abortion without the express assurance from the Salvadoran government that they will not face prosecution for administering the life saving treatment she needs. Abortion is criminalised in all circumstances in El Salvador. Under Article No. 133 of the Penal Code, anyone who provides, or tries to access, abortion services can face lengthy prison sentences.

The health professionals responsible for Beatriz's care have requested permission from the authorities to proceed with the treatment. As yet no response has been given and the waiting is causing undue suffering and anxiety for Beatriz and her family. Beatriz has a one year old son and so concerns for her survival are particularly pertinent. The physical and mental anguish she is experiencing is proving detrimental to her health.

### **Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language:**

- Calling on the authorities to allow Beatriz immediate and unfettered access to the life saving treatment she needs, in accordance with her wishes and the recommendations of medical staff;
- Urging them to immediately ensure that health professionals are able to provide the treatment Beatriz needs and wants without the threat, risk or fear of criminal prosecution;
- Urging them to decriminalise abortion in all circumstances and ensure women and girls have safe and legal access to abortion services necessary to preserve their life or health, or if they are pregnant as a result of rape.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 05 JUNE 2013 TO:**

#### Attorney General

Luis Martínez  
Fiscal General de la República  
Fiscalía General de la República  
Calle Cortez Blanco Poniente, #20,  
Urbanización Madre Selva 3, Antiguo  
Cuscatlán, La Libertad.  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
Fax: +503 2246 4950  
Email: [fiscalgeneral@fgr.gob.sv](mailto:fiscalgeneral@fgr.gob.sv)

**Salutation: Dear Attorney General/  
Estimado Sr. Fiscal**

#### President

Mauricio Funes  
Presidente de la República de El Salvador  
Alameda Dr. Manuel Enríque Araujo, No.  
5500,  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
Fax +503 2243 6860

**Salutation: Dear Mr/ Estimado Sr**

#### **And copies to:**

#### NGO

The Citizens Group for the Decriminalisation  
of Therapeutic, Ethical and Eugenic  
Abortion  
Fax: +503 2226 0356 (say "tono de fax")  
Email:  
[agrupacionporladespenalizacion@gmail.com](mailto:agrupacionporladespenalizacion@gmail.com)

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 93/13. Further information:  
<http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR29/001/2013/en>

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Sexual and reproductive rights are grounded in human rights that are recognized in international human rights treaties, regional standards, national constitutions and other relevant human rights standards. The realization of sexual and reproductive rights requires respect for rights relating to physical and mental integrity, including the rights to life, to liberty and security of person; to freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; and to privacy and respect for family life; as well as rights related to freedom of conscience and expression and freedom from discrimination. These rights correspond directly to the principles underpinning sexual and reproductive rights – the physical and mental integrity of the individual, his or her autonomy, and the principle of non-discrimination on grounds such as gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or socioeconomic status.

Sexual and reproductive rights are central to the realization of every individual's human rights. Respect for these rights is essential to human dignity and to the enjoyment of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being. Their fulfilment enhances life and personal relationships and helps to achieve gender equality and empowerment. All people must be allowed to enjoy their sexual and reproductive rights free from coercion, discrimination and violence.

In June 2011, the UN Special expert on Violence against Women expressed grave concern at a situation of violence against women in El Salvador, and warned that government inaction on the investigation, prosecution and reparation for such crimes had led to a situation of impunity for gender based violence.

In her report the UN Special Expert also urged the government to review the laws which ban abortion in all circumstances, even where the life or health of the woman or girl is at stake or she is a victim of rape.

Name: Beatriz  
Gender m/f: f

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