

URGENT ACTION

TEENAGE RAPE SURVIVOR GETS LEGAL ABORTION

A 15-year-old girl from the southern Argentinian province of Chubut was given a legal abortion on 20 March. She was pregnant after being raped by her step-father. An appeal judge ruled that the abortion could go ahead after she had previously been denied the abortion by a family court judge.

On 12 March, a judge at the Comodoro Rivadavia Second Family Court ruled that the girl could not have an abortion. Her lawyers appealed this decision, arguing that the correct interpretation of the Argentinian Criminal Code allows an abortion in cases where the life or health of the woman is at risk. Despite concerns that further delays in the judicial process would make the procedure impossible, the appeal court in Chubut reached a swift decision that an abortion would be legal.

The procedure was performed on 20 March. The hospital that had initially refused to perform the abortion remained unwilling, so the abortion was carried out in another hospital in Chubut province.

The girl has suffered many years of sexual abuse from her stepfather, which was reported to the authorities once she found out she was pregnant. An investigation into the abuse she suffered is open.

Amnesty International remains concerned that this case is emblematic of a widespread problem of unnecessary judicial involvement in abortion requests in Argentina, in particular in cases of rape in which the denial of a safe, legal abortion constitutes a violation of human rights. Amnesty International will continue to campaign for the implementation of much-needed protocols providing guidance to health workers on the provision of legal abortion throughout Argentina.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the 1st update of UA 65/10. Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR13/002/2010/en

FU on UA: 65/10 Index: AMR 13/004/2010 Issue Date: 23 March 2010

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

