

URGENT ACTION

GOVERNMENT MUST MEET COMMITMENT TO BEATRIZ

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights has issued protective measures for Beatriz, ordering the Salvadoran government to urgently provide the medical treatment she needs to safeguard her life and health. The Salvadoran Minister of Health has stated that she supports Beatriz being given the necessary treatment, but her words must be translated into action immediately.

On 29 May the Constitutional Chamber of El Salvador's Supreme Court of Justice issued a ruling which denied Beatriz her appeal for access to a therapeutic abortion, passing the responsibility for any decision on her treatment to the doctors treating her. This decision leaves the responsibility for Beatriz's life and health firmly and solely in the hands of the Salvadoran government, as the ultimate guarantors of Beatriz's human rights.

Following the Supreme Court ruling, on 30 May the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR) issued protective measures (medidas provisionales) for Beatriz, ordering the government to provide her with the treatment she needs and with no further delays. The Salvadoran government are legally bound to comply with this order.

The Salvadoran Minister of Health publicly stated yesterday that Beatriz will be given the treatment she needs, which is a very welcome commitment. However this commitment must now be urgently translated into action, with no further cruel delays. Your action is crucial at this moment to ensure that the Salvadoran government adhere to this commitment.

Please write immediately in Spanish, English or your own language:

- Welcoming the 30 May statement made by the Minister of Health that Beatriz will be given the treatment she needs and stress that these words must be translated into action with no further cruel delays, so that the government complies with the legally-binding IACtHR protective measures (medidas provisionales);
- You can also send a tweet to the President. See the 'additional information' sections for suggested tweets;
- Call the Salvadoran embassy in your country, or request a meeting with the ambassador, or hold a demonstration outside the embassy expressing the key messages above.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 12 JULY 2013 TO:

President

Mauricio Funes
Presidente de la República de El Salvador
Dirección postal: Alameda Dr. Manuel Enríque Araujo, No. 5500,
San Salvador, El Salvador
Fax: +503 2243 9947
Twitter: .@presidencia_sv
Salutation: Dear President/Estimado Sr. Presidente

Minister of Health

Dra. María Isabel Rodríguez
Ministerio de Salud
Dirección postal: Calle Arce No.827,
San Salvador, El Salvador
Fax: +503 2221 0991 (keep trying)
Email: mrodriguez@salud.gob.sv
Salutation: Dear Minister/Estimada Ministra

And copies to:

The Citizens Group for the Decriminalisation of Therapeutic, Ethical and Eugenic Abortion
Fax: +503 2226 0356 (keep trying and say "tono de fax")
Email: 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 third update of UA 93/13 Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/AMR29/005/2013/en>

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

AI press release issued 30 May: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/beatriz-2013-05-30>

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 wellbeing. 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.

Suggested Tweets:

.@presidencia_sv We welcome the Minister of Health's promise to #saveBeatriz but this must happen now with no more cruel delays

.@presidencia_sv Bienvenido el compromiso de la Ministra de Salud que se dara el tratamiento para que se #salveBeatriz pero q lo hagan ya!

.@presidencia_sv Comply with the protective measures ordered by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and #saveBeatriz now!

.@presidencia_sv Cumpla con las medidas provisionales de la Corte Interamericana de DDHH ya y #salveBeatriz

.@presidencia_sv Every day there are more of us: now over 170,000 people across the world want you to #saveBeatriz

.@presidencia_sv Cada dia somos mas: ahora mas de 170.000 personas a lo largo del mundo queremos que Ud #salveBeatriz

Name: Beatriz

Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 93/13 Index: AMR 29/006/2013 Issue Date: 31 May 2013