

URGENT ACTION

RAPED 10-YEAR-OLD PREGNANT GIRL STILL AT RISK

Paraguay continues to deny the right to health, life and physical and psychological integrity of a girl raped by her stepfather who is nearly five months pregnant.

Despite the urgency of the situation, 10 days after the **10-year-old girl's** pregnancy was confirmed, an interdisciplinary and independent panel of experts has not yet been created. The panel should be formed of at least health professionals, psychologists and social workers to holistically assess the girl's situation, taking into account her physical and psychological health, and have all possible options available to protect her human rights.

A 21-week pregnancy was detected at the Trinidad Maternity and Children's Hospital (Hospital Materno Infantil de Trinidad) on 21 April when the girl went to the hospital with her mother complaining of stomach ache. To date the State has not ensured that all possible options for managing this high-risk pregnancy resulting from rape, including an abortion, are at her disposal. It has been four days since her mother requested a voluntary termination of her daughter's pregnancy due to her young age and the high risk to her health and life.

It is the State's obligation to immediately provide full information regarding all possible physical and psychological risks of the pregnancy, and to provide access to all services that may be necessary to safeguard her life and physical and mental integrity in the short, medium and long term. The priority of the interdisciplinary panel of experts must be the protection of the girl's human rights.

So far the State has failed its obligation to protect this child. She has been to different medical centres since January complaining of a stomach ache. She was told it was parasites or a tumour, but the pregnancy went undetected. In addition, last year her mother made a complaint about the sexual abuse of her daughter, but prosecutors did not investigate and did not provide protection measures as they considered her not to be at risk. The investigation into the abuse by her stepfather was only initiated when her pregnancy came to light. The alleged perpetrator has fled and is now evading justice. Her mother is now in prison, facing charges of failing in her duty of care and of being complicit in the abuse. On 29 April the girl was taken to a home for young mothers.

Please write immediately in Spanish or your own language, urging the Paraguayan authorities to:

- Immediately create an interdisciplinary panel of experts to promptly assess the child holistically and ensure all her human rights, particularly her right to life, health, and physical and psychological integrity are guaranteed;
- Meet their international obligations and protect human rights, by ensuring that she has access to all possible information and medical services to manage this high-risk pregnancy as a result of rape, including the option of accessing safe abortion services;
- Conduct an independent and impartial investigation into the rape and bring the perpetrator to justice.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 12 JUNE 2015:

President of Paraguay

Sr. Horacio Cartes
Palacio de Gobierno
El Paraguay Independiente entre
O'leary y Ayolas. Asunción, Paraguay
Email: horaciocartesjara@gmail.com
presenciaparaguay@gmail.com

**Salutation: Dear President/ Estimado
Señor Presidente**

Attorney General

Dr. Javier Díaz Verón
Chile c/ Ygatimí
Asunción, Paraguay
Fax: +595 21 415 6152
Email: fdiaz@ministeriopublico.gov.py

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

And copies to:

CLADEM Paraguay
Email: coordi@cladem.org

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 100/15. Further information:

www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AMR45/1554/2015/en/

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In Paraguay, abortion is only permitted when the life of the women or girls is at risk. In any other circumstances, even if pregnancy is the result of rape, incest or when the foetus has a severe malformation, abortion is not permitted. This restrictive abortion law is in violation of international human rights law.

Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that "In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interest of the child shall be a primary consideration". The Committee on the Rights of the Child requires all State parties, including Paraguay, to ensure girls have access to abortion, at a minimum, when their health and life is in danger and in cases of rape and incest.

Name: 10-year-old girl (name withheld)

Gender m/f: f

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