

EL SALVADOR END THE BAN ON ABORTION NOW



SIGN OUR PETITION

Imagine ending up in jail for having an abortion or miscarrying. It is happening right now – you can help stop it.

In El Salvador abortion is a crime. Even if you're pregnant as a result of rape. Even if your life is at risk.

Anyone found guilty of having an abortion, or helping someone to have one, could be imprisoned for up to 12 years. Anyone who suffers a miscarriage could be charged with aggravated homicide and face up to 50 years in jail. Convictions are often based on weak evidence following a flawed trial.

The law has other serious human rights implications. More than half of all deaths of pregnant teenagers are due to suicide. Lack of sex education and proper access to contraception means El Salvador has the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Latin America. Women die every year as a result of unsafe 'illegal' abortions.

TO: THE PRESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR, SÁNCHEZ CERÉN

El Salvador's total ban on abortion is a serious human rights violation and must be urgently repealed. It affects the right to health, to life and to freedom from torture and other ill-treatment, and re-victimises survivors of rape.

We oppose imprisonment and other criminal penalties for abortion against women and their providers. We are also appalled that women who suffer miscarriage or still birth are suspected of inducing abortion – and can even be charged for murder.

The effects of this ban amount to institutionalised violence against women and girls and torture. This conclusion is backed by the United Nations.

We urge you to:

- decriminalise abortion: eliminate all punitive measures for women and girls seeking an abortion, and also for the health care providers and others who help them have one.
- immediately and unconditionally release all women and girls imprisoned for having abortions or miscarriages. This includes those convicted of abortion, homicide and aggravated homicide;
- ensure access to safe and legal abortion for all. As a minimum ensure access in cases of rape and incest, where the woman's health or life is at risk, and where the foetus is unlikely to survive;
- guarantee access to modern contraceptive information and services, and provide comprehensive sex education.

NAME	STREET ADDRESS	TOWN	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE	EMAIL/TELEPHONE*

*By giving us your details, you are requesting updates about Amnesty's work and the work of Amnesty Groups in your area. If at any time you prefer not to receive updates from Amnesty, please tell us: www.amnesty.org.uk/contact.

