

# UN rights boss urges abortion right upheld in Zika outbreak

*Manrique rapida* Feb 06, 2016



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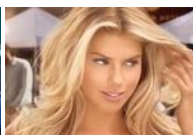
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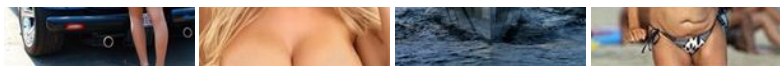


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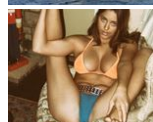
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"This is not a generalized public health measure, for the love of God", he added. The celebrations include massive street parties where it is common for people to kiss strangers.

Myrna Bonaldo, who headed the Fiocruz team behind the discovery, said she was particularly surprised the virus was found in urine because Zika is generally thought not to thrive in acidic mediums.

"We are asking those governments to go back and change those laws", she said.

"How can they ask these women not to become pregnant, but not offer... the possibility to stop *their* pregnancies?" spokeswoman Cecile Pouilly told reporters.

Pouilly said that about a quarter of women had experienced physical or sexual violence in El Salvador in the past year.

"That also shows that many of these pregnancies are out of *their* control and countries obviously have to take that into account", she said.

Dr. Deborah Comstock, who runs an abortion

Still, most global experts are cautious about whether Zika can trigger the rare syndrome, which can cause complete paralysis, because other infections and conditions can lead to the illness.

He said pregnant women should avoid kissing people other than a regular partner or sharing cutlery, glasses and plates with people who have symptoms of the virus.



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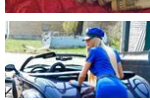
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Dr. Rebecca Gomperts, who runs an abortion-by-mail service called [Women on Web](#) which ships the abortion pill to women in over 120 countries, says that she's already seen an increase in online consultations from women in affected countries.

The subject of abortion is a very complex issue in Latin America.

In the wake of the Zika virus epidemic, WoW is offering early medical abortion (up to nine weeks gestation), free of charge, for women who have been exposed to this disease. "Women should be able to have an abortion if they want".

[World Health Organization](#) officials said on Friday they would seek \$25 million for a six-month program to fight the virus amid fears of up to 4 million cases.

Thursday's announcement came only hours after The Associated Press revealed that worldwide health officials were frustrated at Brazil's refusal to share enough viral samples and other information to answer the most worrying question about the outbreak: Whether the disease is truly causing a spike in babies born with abnormally small heads.

President Barack Obama's allies in the Senate are urging him to ramp up the government's response to the outbreak of **the Zika virus** in the Americas and the potential for its widening spread in the United States.

Health officials in Latin America, however, aren't making the same proclamations about safe sex, even though they're telling women not to get pregnant.

Though abortion activists are using the crisis to push for legalized abortion in many pro-life South American countries, virologist Gubito Soares said legalized abortion in one country may have hindered scientists from finding a link between the virus and [microcephaly](#).



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