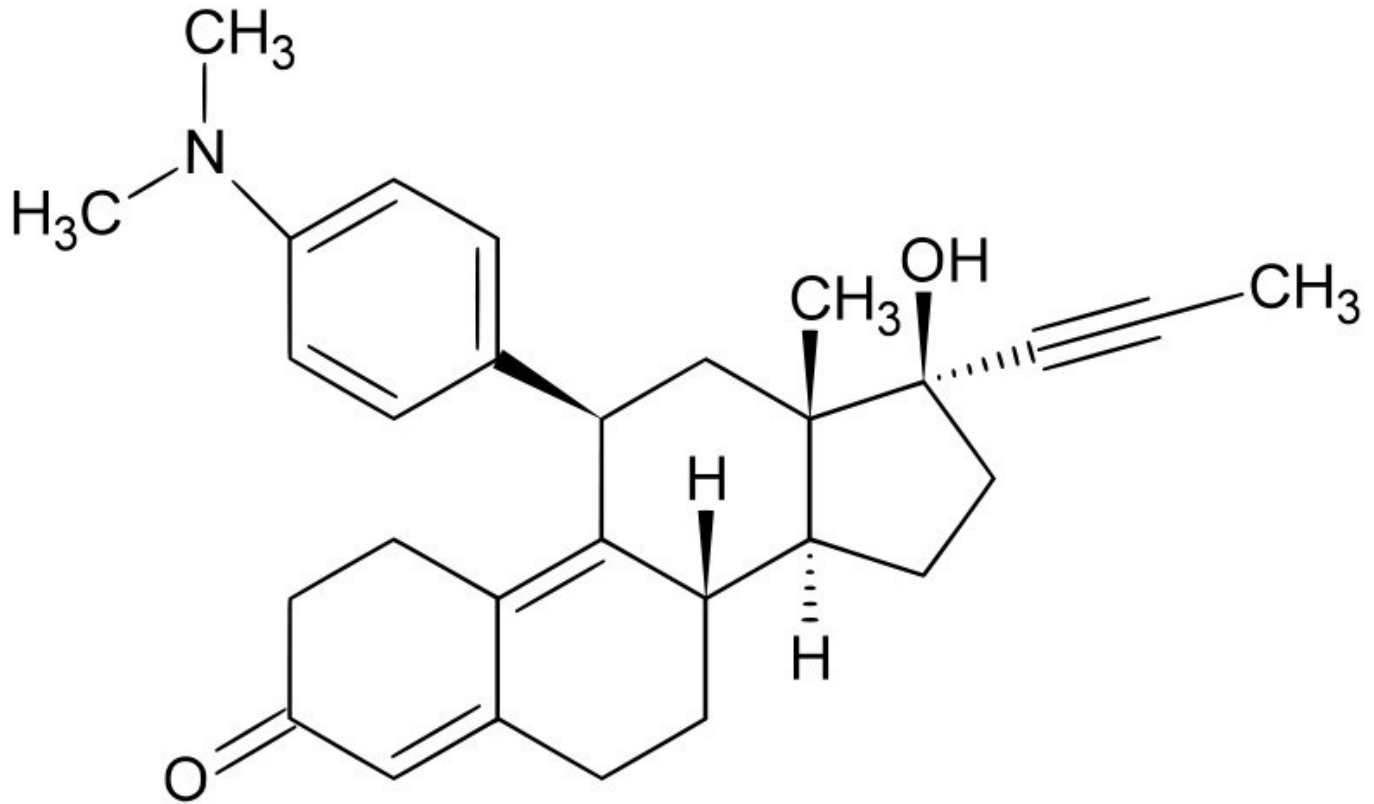


boingboing / CORY DOCTOROW / 7:42 AM FRI

Women in Zika-affected countries beg online for abortion pills



Throughout latinamerica, many countries ban abortion under any circumstance, an historic artifact of the states' close relationship with the Catholic Church. This ban on abortion has always put women's lives at risk, but with the threat of Zika virus, the dire situation has turned urgent, and widespread.

Though the UN has called upon nations to allow women to choose whether to bear foetuses, the Catholic Church has remained merciless, with Pope Francis declaring abortion to be **a human evil**.

Women on the Web is a Canadian activist group that supplies RU-486, a medically safe abortion drug, to women in territories where abortion is banned or restricted. They report that they've received more than 1,000 emails from women in latinamerica, begging for abortion drugs, terrified at the thought that they are bearing foetuses that will gestate into children with microcephaly and a life of severe disability.

The group says that the 1,000 emails represent the tiny fraction of affected women with access to the Internet and say that far more are living under threat but without any chance to speak out.

The scenario is reminiscent of "Are you for 86?" a classic **Bruce Sterling story** about RU-486 smugglers.

"I am [name redacted]," begins one email. "I contacted Zika 4 days ago. I just found out I'm about 6 weeks pregnant. Today. Today, I found out I'm pregnant. I have a son I love dearly. I love children. But I dont believe it is a wise decision to keep a baby who will suffer. I need an abortion. I don't know who to turn to. Please help me ASAP."

Many of the pregnant women said they had tested positive for Zika but were unable to travel or obtain pills to get an abortion.

“I contracted Zika and cannot leave the country!” wrote one woman who asked to be sent abortion pills. Another woman said she was able to get Misoprostol on the black market but was unsure how to take the abortifacient.

Others said they were uncertain if they had contracted the virus. Some said they hadn’t been tested, while a few said they simply didn’t trust their doctor’s diagnosis.

“How do I know if I am infected?” wrote one woman who said she had come down with a flu five months earlier. “Can you please let me know what should I do? What kind of exam do I need to tell the doctor they should do to me?”

[With abortion banned in Zika countries, women beg on web for abortion pills](#) [Michael E Miller/Washington Post/Tico Times]

(Image: [Mifepristone](#))

(via [Skepchick](#))

[SHARE](#) / [TWEET](#) / [COMMENTS](#)

[CHOICE](#) / [GENDER](#) / [HEALTH](#) / [PARENTING](#) / [RELIGION](#) / [UNLIMITED CRUELTY](#) / [ZIKA](#)

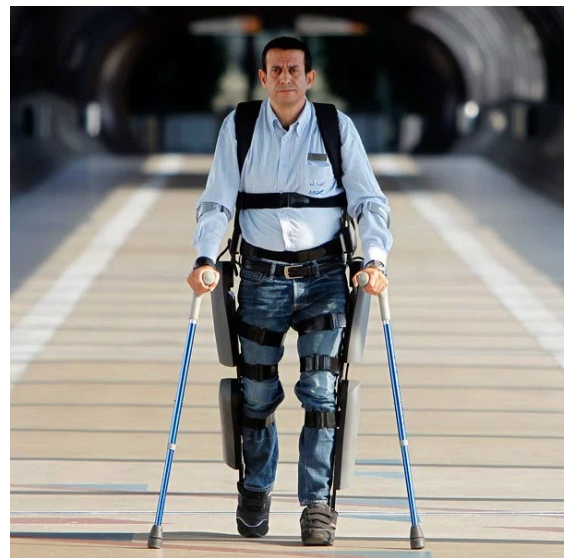
GET THE BOING BOING NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIBE

Health insurance must pay for exoskeletons

An independent review board has ordered an unspecified health insurer in the northeastern USA to reimburse a patient for a \$69,500 exoskeleton from Rewalk, whose products enable people with spinal cord injuries to walk.

[READ THE REST](#)



Hollywood hospital ransoms itself back from hackers for a mere \$17,000

Last week, hackers bricked Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, encrypting all the data on its devices and demanding 9,000 Bitcoin (~\$3.6m) to give the hospital’s IT staff the keys needed to reboot it.

[READ THE REST](#)



Listen: podcast about the alleged "data" collected by wearable devices

Rachel "Datapunk" Kalmar is a brilliant data scientist with a background in neuroscience, connected devices, sensors, and wearables.

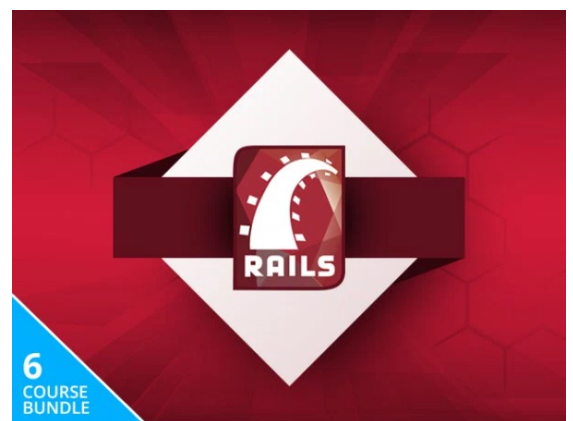
READ THE REST



Lead the pack and be a rail-blazer with this hands-on Ruby on Rails Bootcamp: Now 97% off

These days, everyone's a bro-grammer. To really step it up and make your resume pop from the coding crowd, you need a whole new skill set. And that's where Ruby comes in. Ruby on Rails allows developers to create interactive web applications faster than ever. All those sites out there that look really slick but [...]

READ THE REST



Brew the perfect cup of joe anywhere with the all-in-one Cafflano Coffeemaker & Cup

You're a coffee connoisseur. None of that watered down swill or repulsive sludge, thanks very much. You respect the process, from the grind to the filter to the pour. Each step is precious and your palate is advanced enough to pick up on all that hard work and resulting flavor. But let's be honest: Dunkin' [...]

READ THE REST



Lights, Camera, Action! Save 97% on the Videography Course Bundle in the Boing Boing Store

There are so many incredible things to see in this world. Puppies running across a field. A sunset over the ocean. Your friends and family members singing behind a birthday cake. If only you could capture it all, just like you remember it. Well of course you can, except now you won't have any annoying [...]

READ THE REST



Read the rules you agree to by using this website in our **Terms of Service**.

Boing Boing uses cookies and analytics trackers, and is supported by advertising, merchandise sales and affiliate links. Read about what we do with the data we gather in our **Privacy Policy**.

Who will be eaten first? Our forum rules are detailed in the **Community Guidelines**.

Boing Boing is published under a **Creative Commons license** except where otherwise noted.

Mark Frauenfelder
Cory Doctorow
David Pescovitz
Xeni Jardin
Rob Beschizza

Jason Weisberger
 Publisher

Ken Snider
 Sysadmin

About Us
Contact Us
Advertise
Forums
Shop

Shop Support