

May 7, 2013

Dear Minister:

Global Doctors for Choice calls on the government of El Salvador to authorize immediate life saving medical treatment for “Beatriz,” a 22-year old woman with uncontrolled lupus whose pregnancy with an anencephalic fetus is threatening her life. Withholding treatment from “Beatriz” constitutes a direct violation of her human rights to health and well being. Her life and health should be the first priority in this situation; she and her one and only older son depend on it. Inhibiting physicians from providing appropriate, evidence-based medical treatment in the form of therapeutic abortion compromises their professional integrity and obligations to their patients. Preventing physicians from meeting their professional obligations to their patients ultimately threatens the quality of health care for all El Salvadorans. Global Doctors for Choice calls for immediate medical treatment for “Beatriz” and calls for legal protection for physicians who perform their professional duties, without the threat of criminal prosecution for doing so. We urge the government of El Salvador to decriminalize abortion in all circumstances and to ensure safe and legal access to abortion services needed to preserve the life and health of women.

Sincerely,

Global Doctors for Choice