

## ANTI ABORTION PROTEST IN CROATIA - "The March For Life"

On Sunday May 25, 2019, the day before the European Parliament Elections, which is traditionally observed as the Day of Election Silence when entities are encouraged to refrain from political messaging, "March for Life" held anti-abortion protests in four different Croatian cities.

The protests were organized by the ultra-conservative organization "On Behalf of the Family" and supported by the Croatian Catholic Medical Society, an organization that defends the right to conscientious objection.

The March was attended by approximately 5000 people, ending with a concert of nationalistic Croatian singer Thompson, who was accused of fascism and whose performances are banned in several countries of European Union.

To rise against this movement, several pro-choice civil organizations held counter protests. These groups dressed in red, "the Red Resistance," and appealed to citizens to defend the right to abortion. Thirteen women, who dressed in bloody clothing to symbolize the impact of criminalizing abortion and maternal morbidity and mortality, sat in front of the march trying to impede and end the march, but were soon arrested and removed from the street. Here is a video of their arrest and removal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VaHikuTei3M>

In Croatia, abortion is legal until tenth week of pregnancy. Changes in the law are anticipated as the current law originates from the time when Croatia was part of Yugoslavia and has not changed in more than 40 years.

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