

July 8, 2016

Dear Honorable Judges of El Salvador:

We write on behalf of Global Doctors for Choice (GDC), an international network of physicians from a range of specialties committed to improving women's reproductive health and rights. GDC is committed to the provision of high-quality medical care grounded in science and to the defense of human rights. We strive to protect and expand access to comprehensive reproductive health care through advocacy for evidence-based policy and medical research.

We write to urge you to affirm Judge Rogel Zepeda's decision that overturned Maria Teresa Rivera's conviction and released her from prison. By supporting his decision, you will be allowing justice for this woman who suffered a medical emergency and then was jailed for it. All people should be able to seek and receive the medical care they need, especially in cases of emergencies, and should feel free to do so without fear.

As doctors, our first duty is always to our patients. Access to comprehensive medical services and scientifically based information is essential to ensure the best possible conditions for women's health, and for the health of the population.

As a global network of physicians, we urge you to support Judge Rogel Zepeda's decision that overturned Maria Teresa's conviction and released her from prison, and thus prevent unnecessary medical and psychological harms for her and for all women and vulnerable populations in El Salvador.

Sincerely,

ANA CRISTINA GONZÁLEZ V.

Dr. Ana Cristina González Vélez
Grupo Médico por el Derecho a Decidir
Bogotá, Colombia



Dr. Alfonso Carrera
Grupo Médico por una Libre Elección
México DF



Dr. John Koku Awoonor-Williams
Global Doctors for Choice
Ghana



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wendy Chavkin", written in a light brown or tan ink on a light green rectangular background.

Dr. Wendy Chavkin
Columbia University
New York, USA

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Van der Tak", written in a light brown or tan ink.

Dick Van der Tak
Executive Director, Global Doctors for Choice
55 West 39th St, New York, USA