

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



Dr. Raúl Ernesto Melara Morán
Fiscal General de la República
Edificio Farmavida, Calle Cortéz Blanco Poniente No. 20
Urb. Madre Selva 3, Antiguo Cuscatlán
San Salvador, El Salvador

October 9, 2019

Please End the Unjust Criminalization of Evelyn Hernández

Dear Attorney General,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to immediately end the prosecution of Evelyn Hernández, as well as all other women in El Salvador, for pregnancy-related complications. Evelyn Hernández was acquitted of charges related to her obstetric emergency; however, the Public Prosecutor's Office is now appealing these charges. It is imperative that you drop this appeal against the court's verdict, and respect her acquittal.

We are deeply concerned by reports from Amnesty International that in 2016, after suffering an obstetric emergency that caused her to lose her pregnancy, Evelyn Hernández was arrested, tried, and sentenced to 30 years in jail for aggravated homicide. She had been wrongfully accused under El Salvador's anti-abortion laws. Evelyn Hernández was declared innocent in her August 2019 re-trial, as the judge stated that there was insufficient evidence to demonstrate that she had committed a crime. Considering that Evelyn Hernández has already been acquitted of charges that came from wrongful accusations, it is very troubling that the Public Prosecutor's Office decided to appeal the verdict; therefore, we would like to reiterate our request that you immediately drop the appeal against the verdict that declared her to be innocent.

It has also come to our attention that at least 16 women are in similar situations to that of Evelyn Hernández; they are currently in jail for, or facing charges related to, obstetric emergencies. Since these women are being wrongfully accused under anti-abortion laws, we urge you to ensure that neither Evelyn Hernández nor any other woman in El Salvador is put on trial for pregnancy-related complications.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sierra Rae".

Sierra Rae
President
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Hayashi".

Brandon Hayashi
Vice President Equity
TRU Students' Union

cc. Her Excellency Tania Molina Avalos, Ambassador for El Salvador