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AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

NICARAGUA'S BUTTERFLIES OF HOPE

SEND A BUTTERFLY TO NICARAGUAN GIRLS AND WOMEN

Young women and girls are at greatest risk of rape and sexual abuse in Nicaragua.

“Rape and sexual abuse of girls aged between 13 and 15 – these are the cases we most commonly receive here at our centre.”

Director of a centre providing support to victims of domestic and other violence, Grenada

For some women and girls made pregnant by rape, the idea of giving birth is unbearable. But in Nicaragua they have little choice. Since 2008, the law in Nicaragua has made all forms of abortion in all circumstances a crime.

“What happened to me shattered my dreams, my hopes.”

Estefany, who had a baby after being raped at gunpoint by her uncle when she was 17

Most young survivors of rape get little or no government support to rebuild their lives. The government has so far failed to fulfil its duty to prevent sexual abuse and provide care and support to survivors.

“I demand that the government respects our rights as women.”

Clara, 18-year-old youth rights promoter, Managua

28 September 2011 is the Day for the Decriminalization of Abortion in Latin America and the Caribbean. Women and girls in Nicaragua believe this day is a very important chance to make their voices heard.

“I would ask that they at least *listen* to women and girls who have survived rape.”

Psychiatrist working with survivors of rape in Grenada

On this day, women and girls will be demonstrating in Nicaragua to demand the repeal of the total abortion ban and an end to violence against women and girls. Butterflies are the symbol of this solidarity campaign.

Why butterflies?

“The butterfly for us is a symbol of the desire to realize our dreams, spread our wings... fighting with strength for our rights.”

Martha Munguia, Executive Coordinator of the Nicaraguan Alliance of Women's Centres

You can stand alongside Nicaraguan girls and women and contribute directly to their demonstrations by creating your own butterfly and sending it to us.

“I am not asking for sympathy, I want your solidarity.”

Estefany, who had a baby after being raped at gunpoint by her uncle when she was 17

ACT NOW

■ Use the template on the back of this leaflet to create your own personal butterfly – colour it, decorate it, create patterns on the wings.

■ Write your name, country and message of solidarity on or around the butterfly.

■ Send your butterfly to your local Amnesty International office. Every butterfly that reaches us by 19 August 2011 will join the demonstrations.

First name: Last name:

Email: Phone No:

City: Country:

The names of thousands of people taking action will appear on our online Earth Candle. If you do not want your name and country to be included, please tick here Giving us your details means we'll be able to send you updates about this campaign. If you want Amnesty International to contact you again please tick here