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### **LIFE OF A PREGNANT 10-YEAR-OLD GIRL AT RISK**

Dear Minister

I am writing you out of deep concern about the life of a 10-year-old girl who is pregnant after having been raped by her stepfather.

The director of the Hospital Materno Infantil de Trinidad publicly acknowledged that the girl's pregnancy was a risk to her health and life, despite the girl being in stable health condition. A few days later, the Public Ministry ordered the girl to be admitted to a different hospital, the Red Cross Hospital (Hospital de la Cruz Roja), to monitor her health.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and health professionals around the world agree that pregnancy poses specific risks to young girls whose bodies are not fully developed and that the risk to their lives is greater. Therefore all options regarding the pregnancy, including safe abortion services, must be made available.

In Paraguay, abortion is legal when the life of the woman or girl is at risk, therefore she is entitled to a lawful abortion. According the Convention on the Rights of the Child the best interest of the child has to always be of primary consideration and states have an obligation under the Convention to ensure access to abortion in these circumstances.

That is why I urge you to:

- ⑩ save the life of this 10-year-old-girl, pregnant as a result of rape by her stepfather, by granting her the abortion her mother has requested;
- ⑩ remember that according to UN agencies, a pregnancy poses specific risks and potentially long-term consequences for the physical and mental health of girls;
- ⑩ carry out an independent an impartial investigation into the rape of the girl and to hold those responsible for the abuse accountable.

Yours sincerely,

Copies to:

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