

Brazil - Parliamentary Investigation Committee (CPI) and serious lack of information are obstacles to the establishment of sexual and reproductive rights.

February starts with polemic and disturbing news for activists in the area of sexual and reproductive rights. Barack Obama's inauguration and his initial decisions had great repercussion, but the liberation of funds to finance pro-abortion entities outside the United States irritated a lot of people, specially religious groups against abortion and the Vatican.

The falling of Global Gag Rule in the USA, among other measures, brought back the abortion debate to the cover of most important newspapers and magazines in Brazil and in the world. Our country was undergoing Senate and House of Representatives presidential elections, and at the same time coping with an attempt to install a CPI - Parliamentary Investigation Committee - to investigate abortion. The CPI, created last December by Arlindo Chinaglia (PT-SP), president of the House of Representatives at the time, has been regarded by new government leaders as a "headache", and runs opposite to the tendency to broaden women reproduction citizenship manifested throughout developed countries. Michel Temer (PMDB - SP), the new president of the House of Representatives, will have to take position and decide if his support goes to women's rights or to conservative groups that not only expose women who practiced unsafe abortions but also try to influence the leaders of organizations that defend women's reproductive rights as human rights.

Abortions performed in the country occur by women's decisions based on their ethical and moral choices according to their own human dimension, as shown in the special report published by VEJA magazine on January 28, under the title "*Aborto - A realidade dos consultórios*" ("Abortion - The reality in medical offices"). In order to achieve that, medical experts have been giving women support. But not as a rule: new abortion cases in Mato Grosso do Sul were disclosed in the media, attesting for the high life risk and precarious conditions which countless women who decide to interrupt their pregnancy are submitted to in Brazil. Cases that could have been avoided if only the population had been correctly oriented on their sexual and reproductive rights and had had full access to contraceptive methods, including the emergency ones in those cases when women had opportunity to openly dialogue with their partners.

While the course of CPI abortion is being determined, we still have to deal with the discussion about sexual education in schools. An article entitled "Sexual Terrorism" by Luiz Felipe Pondé was published by *Folha de São Paulo* and illustrates the complete lack of information and the amazing ignorance of great part of population on the subject, including people who should at least have some basic information on the matter and its implications. The whole text presents an offensive verbosity and is brimming with misinterpretations on what sexual education is, and in itself proves that education is exactly what is mostly needed.