

Joint action voices organizations in fight for sexual and reproductive rights – Press coverage in favor of population’s rights must be constant

February brought a triumph against the restriction to sexual and reproductive rights in Brazil. In Jundiaí, ordinance no 7.025 prohibiting distribution of emergency contraceptive pills by public health service was dropped. Last month on the 18th, immediately before carnival season, the ordinance was declared unconstitutional and the contraceptive, popularly known as “the day after pill”, was liberated. As soon as this law is revoked by Legislative Power, municipal health offices should start to distribute the pills again.

The voting of *Adin – Ação Direta de Inconstitucionalidade*, “Direct Unconstitutionality Action” was proposed by the State Ministry and both *CCR – Comissão de Cidadania e Reprodução*, “Committee for Citizenship and Reproduction” and *Conectas Direitos Humanos*, “Conectas Human Rights” took part as *amici curiae*. The joint action was outstanding and set for an example: two organizations developed a local strategy with national range voicing groups that act in the fight for sexual and reproductive rights in the country. Results in favor of their claims show that a way to guarantee those rights to all citizens is to promote joint measures and constantly monitor the action of groups contrary to the exercise of full human rights in municipal, state and national scopes.

Proving that such groups will insist on the restriction to the pill, Cláudio Miranda, ex-city councilor and author of the ordinance in March, 2008 went straight to the City Council the morning after the voting of *Adin* and discussed the event with city councilor José Galvão Braga Campos (PSDB), president of the Legislative Power. At the time, Claudio Miranda mentioned a possible approach to the *Frente Parlamentar em Defesa da Vida*, “Parliamentary Front in Defense of Life” in order to elaborate additional measures, showing that the case in Jundiaí is connected to national conservative sectors in the Parliament.

According to law advisors for *CCR* and *Conectas* it is not possible to appeal against the decision of São Paulo Court of Justice because it is the most competent body to judge the applied cause. It is expected therefore that Jundiaí City Council accepts the decision of São Paulo Supreme Justice.

The question now is to guarantee that municipal health offices in Jundiaí really start distributing the medicine.

News about the liberation of the “day after pill” were published in the most important São Paulo newspapers, pointing out how controversial the matter stands in Brazil. The fact that the law prohibiting the distribution of the medicine was beaten by 21 votes against 3 was also disclosed in the media, showing numbers that attest for the disagreement to its passing last year. It is expected that the press will fully cover the outcomes of the decision made by the Court of Justice, and hopefully the media will remain committed to helping not only the population of Jundiaí but the ones in many other Brazilian cities by bringing them information about their rights and alerting them about the attempts quite often unconstitutional by politicians to swindle those rights.