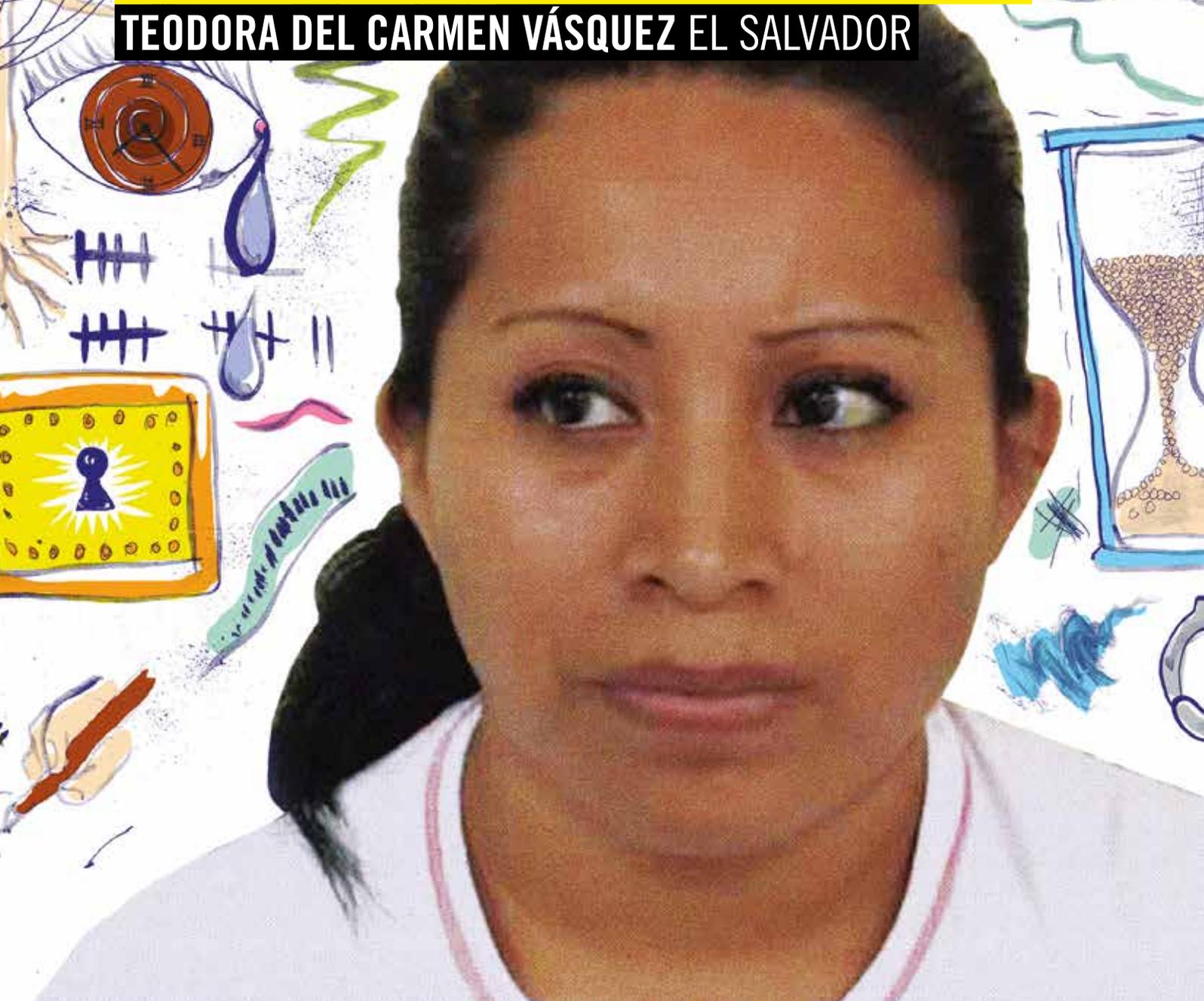


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30 YEARS' JAIL AFTER SUFFERING A STILL-BIRTH

TEODORA DEL CARMEN VÁSQUEZ EL SALVADOR



TEODORA DEL CARMEN VÁSQUEZ

EL SALVADOR

In 2008, Teodora del Carmen Vásquez was sentenced to 30 years in prison for “aggravated homicide” after suffering a still-birth at work.

Teodora, mother of an 11-year-old boy, was expecting a new baby when she started experiencing increasingly severe pain. She called the emergency services but her waters broke soon afterwards. She went into labour, and was unconscious when she gave birth.

When she came round, bleeding profusely, her baby was dead. Police at the scene handcuffed her and arrested her on suspicion of murder. Only then did they take her to hospital where she could get the urgent treatment she needed.

In El Salvador, women who miscarry or suffer a still-birth during pregnancy are routinely suspected of having had an “abortion”. Abortion



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under any circumstance is a crime, even in cases of rape, incest, or where a woman’s life is at risk. This makes women afraid to seek help with pregnancy-related problems, leading inevitably to more preventable deaths.

Teodora’s trial was deeply flawed. As in all similar cases in El Salvador, she was presumed guilty and, being from a poor family, could not afford an effective legal team to represent her. Her only option now is to appeal for her sentence to be changed so that she is released.

Call on El Salvador’s Minister of Justice to release Teodora immediately.

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**



Write to El Salvador’s Justice Minister

Call on the Minister of Justice to release Teodora, and immediately and impartially review the sentences of all women still in jail for pregnancy-related issues.

Benito Antonio Lara Fernández
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Post your message of support for Teodora

We’ve created a Tumblr space where you can upload your photo or message of support to Teodora.

At the end of the campaign, we’ll incorporate all your images into a printed publication which our local partners Agrupación Ciudadana will present to her family.

Post your contribution at teodoralibre.tumblr.com