

Report reveals Canada's Indigenous women still being forcibly sterilized



Ottawa, July 15 (RHC)-- Canada's Indigenous women are still being pressured into having their tubes tied decades after other rich countries stopped the appalling practice, a report says. A large number of activists, physicians, politicians, and at least five class-action lawsuits confirmed that the practice of

forcibly sterilizing Indigenous women has not ended in Canada, The Associated Press revealed in a report issued in Ottawa.

Last year, the Canadian Senate issued a report saying that Indigenous women continue to be sterilized without their knowledge or consent, concluding that "this horrific practice is not confined to the past, but clearly is continuing today."

Back in May, a doctor was sanctioned for carrying out an illegal procedure against an Indigenous woman in 2019, the report added, citing obtained documents. "Thousands of Indigenous Canadian women over the past seven decades were coercively sterilized, in line with eugenics legislation that deemed them inferior," the report said.

According to Indigenous leaders, Ottawa has done almost nothing to stop the violations, and the North American country has yet to fully reckon with its troubled colonial past. Canada's 1.7 million Indigenous citizens, nearly five percent of the population, mostly live in isolated communities where poverty, high unemployment and high risk of suicide are chronic problems.

According to the Geneva Conventions, forced sterilization is a type of genocide and crime against humanity.

When asked about the issue, the Canadian government told the AP that "sterilization of women without their informed consent constitutes an assault and is a criminal offense." It also acknowledged that bias in the health system "continues to have catastrophic effects" on Indigenous people.

Canada has always been under fire from some Indigenous Peoples' human rights societies for continuous violation of Aboriginal women's rights to life, freedom, and security. Canada is also severely criticized by human rights groups for the forced and coerced sterilization of Indigenous women, the militarization of Indigenous lands, the criminalization of Indigenous human rights defenders, and the over-incarceration of Indigenous offenders across the country.

Moreover, Canada has a dark past in dealing with the children of its Indigenous population. the country's residential school system forcibly separated more than 150,000 First Nations children from their families between 1831 and 1996.

Many of the children separated from their homes by the church's school system were subjected to abuse, rape, and malnutrition. In 2008, the Canadian government was forced to finally apologize for its historic abuses.

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