

## Greek gay couples wed despite ban

by UPI

TILOS, Greece -- A woman who was married Tuesday in the first same-sex wedding in Greece called the ceremony a blow against discrimination. Evangelia Vlami told the BBC that she and her female partner went through with the controversial wedding to encourage other gay people in conservative Greece to take a stand on the issue. "From this day, discrimination against gays in Greece is on the decline," Vlami said. The mayor of the island of Tilos performed the sunrise ceremony for one female and one male couple in defiance of threats of prosecution. Mayor Tassos Alfieris told the BBC he was defending human rights by performing the ceremony. Same-sex marriage has been banned by the federal government and condemned by the influential Greek Orthodox Church.

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