

These Headlines Demand our Attention



Circumcision a 'violation of child's rights'

October 12, 2005

By Janine Stephen

A group of men caused a stir in parliament on Tuesday by calling for an end to all circumcision of baby boys - or anyone under 18 years old.

The National Organisation of Circumcision Information Resource Centres South Africa (NOCIRC-SA) is fighting for boys' rights to retain their foreskins. They say that circumcision without consent is a "violation of a child's rights".

They are supported by a number of other local and international organisations, including the International Coalition of Genital Integrity, Doctors Opposing Circumcision and the National Organisation of Restoring Men (NORM).



Circumcision law "is not working"

October 5, 2005

Many boys in Sweden are still being damaged by illegal circumcisions, despite the introduction of a law in 2001 to protect them. But how many boys are being operated on by people without the legal right to do so is still unclear, according to the National Board of Health and Welfare.

"We can't reach all of these," said Torsten Mossberg, who is head of the health board's regional supervisory unit in Stockholm.

"But those of us who are in charge of supervision know that it happens and that now and then parents come in with a little boy with a bloody penis - and that's been done by someone," he said.

Dispatch

Thousands of initiates rescued from camps

October 20, 2005

While some parents helped, others hid the boys to stop their being removed by the department

By MODISE KABELI and LULAMILE FENI

HEALTH Department officials rescued more than 5000 initiates from illegal initiation schools in the province in this year's circumcision season.

A total of 10685 boys in the province entered the traditional rite of passage ritual last season between the beginning of June and the end of July. During this period 23 initiates died, 15 of them of natural causes.



A proposed bill to ban male circumcision

The clash of gender, religion and the protection of children

April 8, 2005

By Sherry Colb

A San Diego, California-based group that calls itself a health and human rights organization recently submitted a proposed bill to Congress called the Male Genital Mutilation Bill ("MGM bill"). The bill, if adopted, would ban the practice of circumcising baby boys.

Take Action Now

www.mgmbill.org/takeaction.htm

How Many Victims are Too Many?

The Seattle Times



A war only God sees:

Hidden from the outside world, a conflict of death, religion, mutilation

March 26, 2001

By Richard C. Paddock

AMBON, Indonesia - With her home destroyed and her church burned to the ground, 14-year-old Marina Rumakur knew there was only one way to survive: Convert to Islam and submit to a painful rite of mutilation.

Trapped by Muslim extremists on the tiny Indonesian island of Kesui, she and more than 900 fellow Christians surrendered. Hundreds of Catholics and Protestants were forced to undergo female genital excision or male circumcision with kitchen knives and razor blades as the island was "purified" of all its Christians.

Mail & Guardian online

Fifteen boys in hospital after botched circumcisions

June 27, 2005

Johannesburg - Fifteen boys have been admitted to the Tshilidzini hospital in Limpopo after botched circumcisions, the Limpopo Health Department said on Monday.

Department spokesperson Phuti Seloba said the boys were admitted after they were found in a serious condition at an illegal private clinic at Ha-Ramukhuba in the Vuwani district near Thohoyandou on Sunday afternoon.

"The department got a tip-off about an illegal circumcision school and went to investigate. That's when they found the boys," said Seloba.



Sixth circumcision death in Eastern Cape

June 25, 2006

Circumcision season today claimed its sixth victim within a week in the Eastern Cape, provincial health authorities said. Sizwe Kupelo, a department spokesperson, says police were on their way to pick up the body at an initiation school which was erected in the bush. The age of the boy is not yet known.

The season, which starts when schools close in June and ends when they reopen again, is notorious for claiming the lives of young boys, with about 15 dying in 2005. Yesterday a fifth boy's body was picked up at an initiation school. "Young boys are dying like flies," Kupelo says, adding that 13 boys as young as 13 years have been circumcised in the area of Libode.



Dutch MP demands ban on male circumcision

October 4, 2004

Somali-born Dutch MP Ayaan Hirsi Ali has called on the government to consider outlawing male circumcision and making it a criminal offence. The MP — who regularly makes headlines for her controversial views on integration and Islam — claims that circumcision can have long-term damaging effects.



The operation — in which the foreskin of the penis is removed — is carried out on tens of thousands of Muslim and Jewish boys in the Netherlands each year for religious reasons, Radio Netherlands reported.

The Dutch government recently outlawed female circumcision.

Stop Male Genital Mutilation

www.mgmbill.org