# NOCIRC ANNUAL REPORT

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### "Genital Integrity Awareness Week" Launched

The International Coalition for Genital Integrity (ICGI) launched *Genital Integrity Awareness Week* – April 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> (April is Child Abuse Prevention Month) – in Washington, DC. Beginning with a NOCIRC conference, "Genital Integrity: A New Awareness," and continuing with marches to and demonstrations on the steps of the Capitol, human rights organizations joined together to bring greater awareness to a crucial human rights issue. (See photos at www.nocirc.org/news.)

## Medicaid Report Exposes Wasteful Spending

Tax Dollar Funding of Medically Unnecessary Circumcisions Through Medicaid, a comprehensive ICGI study that reports more than \$35 million is spent annually on unnecessary circumcision, was delivered to every member of Congress on April 2 by ICGI members. The packet included a petition signed by the directors of 47 human rights and genital integrity organizations, asking the government to stop using federal tax dollars for medically unnecessary circumcision. Six state Medicaid programs do not fund circumcision. State Medicaid programs that reimburse doctors more than \$60 to perform a circumcision report a near-double circumcision rate than states reimbursing less than \$50. (For more information see www.icgi.org.)

The sexual rights of future generations will be won by the actions of a small but rapidly growing minority of human rights activists who brave ignorance, ridicule, conformity, and their own instinctive need for denial to respond to a human being's highest calling: the defense of the powerless. - Rich Winkel,

2/2/01



### 18-year-old Files Lawsuit Against His Circumciser

Shortly before his 19th birthday, William Stowell filed a lawsuit in New York, suing the doctor and hospital responsible for circumcising him shortly after birth, saying the operation caused him excruciating pain and lasting sexual harm. He claims his pain threshold has been reduced and his ability to sexually satisfy women has been unalterably harmed. Stowell is asking \$75,000 in damages. His mother, Linda Stowell, argues that she signed a consent form given to her when she was under the influence of post-operative medication, a form she says she never would have signed had she not been sedated. Stowell's attorney, David Llewellyn, has won significant settlements in wrongful circumcision cases, which are becoming more prevalent as men recognize the harm and sexual dysfunction caused by their circumcision.

## Dad Protects Son in New Jersey Lawsuit

A divorcing couple who went to court over the circumcision of their 3-year-old son settled the dispute on January 24, 2001, when the boy's mother withdrew a request to have the surgery performed. The boy's father, Jim Price, said, "I'm just happy that everything's over...We all won, because we don't have to carry this fight forward." See NOCIRC's brief, filed on behalf of the boy at www.nocirc.org/legal/brief.html.

### Letter from the Editor

This past year has brought our greatest achievements for children's rights. The Sixth International Symposium on Genital Integrity at the University of Sydney, Australia, in December, received international media coverage. CNN's interview with Shelton Walden (NOCIRC of NY) aired in 29 countries, and the symposium was covered by ABC News, Associated Press, CNN International, the Sydney Herald, Melbourne Age, The Independent (South Africa), The Times of India, Malaysia International New Agency, as well as several South Korean news agencies that announced the Human Rights Award of the International Symposia presented to DaiSik Kim, Myung-Geol Pang, and Sae Chul Kim for their work to protect South Korean males.

Genital Integrity Awareness Week (GIAW) in Washington, DC, was a glowing success. Our march to the Capitol and demonstration on April 1 were staged to emphasize the right of *all* children to protection under the Constitution, and our demonstration the next day in front of the Supreme Court was to bring focus to the unconstitutionality of our federal law against female genital mutilation because of its gender bias. NOCIRC centers across the nation held conferences and demonstrations during GIAW to enhance our educational outreach. As usual, US media coverage was meager. Our media reports human rights violations in other countries but is remiss in addressing or exposing our own. To his credit. Patrick McGrath of Fox News interviewed conference presenters for his report on circumcision, which aired May 2 (for a VHS copy, contact Mark Sherman: dancepartner@juno.com).

Sadly, we suffered two big losses this year. David McKnight, who helped name NOCIRC in 1985 and was director of NOCIRC of Iowa until he suffered a head injury a decade ago, died on 8/9/00. Then, John Erickson died 2/6/01. John was Associate Editor of the NOCIRC Annual Report, and he created two websites – his legacy – www.SexuallyMutilatedChild.org and

www.foreskin.org. As one person wrote: "In all my years of academic research, I have never come across a source of information – on any topic – as powerful, insightful, thorough, and thought-provoking as your website on circumcision." Another said, "Thank you for your site; it is a clarion call to sanity. Your illumination and pursuit of truth as well as your despair at those who cause suffering is humanity at its finest."

On a happier note, I received *NurseWeek* magazine's "Nursing Excellence Awards 2001" award at a banquet

in Los Angeles on May 11. The awards are given to nurses who have "brought something unique and enduring to their chosen fields." I was nominated in the category of Patient Advocacy, and "Recognized for outstanding advocacy for the past 22 years on behalf of those among us who are the most



Marilyn Milos

vulnerable and unable to protect themselves, infants and children." Every nurse in California received the *NurseWeek* issue that mentioned the award, my work, and NOCIRC – an important outreach to nurses. (My acceptance speech is at www.nocirc.org/AwardsSpeech.html)

We have encouraging news from Health Care Investment Analysts (HCIA), which now documents a 57% neonatal circumcision rate. The continuing decline in circumcision illustrates the success of our efforts to protect infants and children. Thanks to one and all!

## Lawsuits and Legislation

#### BELGIUM

**Brussels** – Shortly after circumcision, 14-month-old Sekou Bayou died. The nurse in charge of the recovery room was accused by the hospital and immediately fired. *Dinsdag*, 7/18/00.

#### **CANADA**

Ontario – A malpractice lawsuit, filed by Tadeusz Szewscyk, 47, alleges circumcision left him depressed, disfigured, and unable to have sex. After Dr. Paul Hanson circumcised him in 1997, Mr. Szewscyk, who used to have sex "four or five times a week," cannot maintain an erection, his wife said. *National Post*, 3/8/01.

#### **IRELAND**

The Labour Party published a bill to ban FGM, following concerns that FGM is being carried out in Ireland. *The Irish Times*, 3/8/01.

#### ITALY

Rome – Heightened awareness about FGM would save lives according to speakers at a conference organized by former EU commissioner Emma Bonino. She asked for government support to create a trust fund to help NGOs in Africa. Women for Development's Daniela Colombo singled out Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, and Gambia as leaders of change. *Sapa - AFP*, 3/3/01.

### Lawsuits and Legislation

#### **SWEDEN**

Gothenburg – A father was prosecuted for physical abuse after arranging circumcision of his 3-year-old son. The mother said it was done without her consent while the boy was visiting his father. *Helsingborg Dagblad* – 3/29/00.

Stockholm - District attorney Eva Regner charged a doctor with involuntary manslaughter because a 3-year-old boy died in 8/99 after getting too much anesthesia for circumcision. Radio Stockholm, 2/9/01.

#### UNITED STATES

Baton Rouge, LA - Mary Ann Turner, circumcised without consent in 1979, was awarded \$35,000. Turner sued her ex-husband, Dr. Alan Ostrowe, claiming he conspired to remove her foreskin during other surgery. She said she found out when another physician told her in 1988. The Advocate Online, 4/10/01.

Lansing, Michigan – Rep. Judith Scranton introduced HB 4006, "No Medicaid Coverage for Circumcision" (1/10/01), which states: "Nothwithstanding any other provision of this act, a circumcision is not a service provided with public funds to a recipient of welfare benefits...or through any other type of public aid or assistance program."

Dallas, TX - Charlie Hardy and Randi Harland accepted \$23,000 in an out-of-court settlement after their son was circumcised by obstetrician, Roosevelt Taylor, MD, against their wishes. Fox4online (www.fox4online.com), 7/9/00.

**Seattle, WA** – A circumcision infection and negligent medical care left the son of Gary and Beverly Sweet severely brain-damaged and blind. The doctor and hospital devastated their son, "lost" his medical records, and an incompetent attorney failed to properly try the case. Legal and medical malpractice attorney, Mark Johnson, who represented the Sweets in a successful lawsuit against the attorney, said, "To me the Sweets are heroic figures...they confronted two of society's most powerful institutions: the medical system and the legal system. They fought for 13 years until they prevailed." Johnson Flora Press Release, 3/8/00.

## Highlights from the Medical Literature

#### SOCIOLOGY

Doctors fail to provide adequate information about circumcision, according to a California School of Professional Psychology study, and parents of intact boys are subjected to medical disapproval, causing them to feel less satisfied with their decision. Adler R, Ottaway MS, Gould S. Circumcision: we have heard from the experts; now let's hear from the parents. Pediatrics 2001 Feb;107(2):E20.

Pediatricians are more aware of current indications for circumcision than surgeons, according to results of a questionnaire sent to all NHS hospital consultants in Yorkshire, UK. Surgeons are more inclined to recommend circumcision. Farshi Z, Atkinson KR, Squire R. A study of clinical opinion and practice regarding circumcision. Arch Dis Child 2000 Nov;83(5):393-6.

Sweden's top medical journal published a debate led by Dr. Ynge Hofvander's plea for society to respect the right of every child, whether of immigrant parents or not, to protection from genital cutting. He defended his position against those convinced the Swedish health service should pay for religious circumcision. The series of articles include:

Hofvander Y, Olsen L. Circumcision of boys – a child's right versus parents' right. Lakartidningen 2000 May 24;97(21):2598-604.

Granholm T. Circumcision of boys. A new law proposal will protect young boys against abuse. Lakartidningen 2000 May 24:97(21):2582-4.

Hofvander Y, Olsen L. Ritual circumcision of boys - an intervention against the UN convention. Lakartidningen 2000 May 24;97(21):2640-1.

Narrowe M. Circumcision – a Jewish reply: "Hofvander and Olsen act as enlightened European cultural imperialists." Lakartidningen 2000 Jul 26;97(30-31):3407-8.

Hofvander Y, Olsen L. A reply: rights of the children are more important than parents' right to the circumcision of their children. Lakartidningen 2000 Jul 26;97(30-31):3408.

Hofvander Y, Olsen L. Conclusive comment: our hopes are toward a more open religious attitude. Lakartidningen 2000 Sep 6;97(36):3919.

Narrowe M. Final reply: the view on circumcision reveals an undemocratic attitude. Lakartidningen 2000 Sep 6;97(36):3919.

Olsson B. Circumcision of boys – a not-a-problem in which many are involved. Lakartidningen 2000 Sep 6;97(36):3920.

Rubinstein E. Circumcision should and will be discussed. Lakartidningen 2000 Sep 6;97(36):3920.

Gustavson KH. Girls in Sweden are circumcized in spite of more stringent notification law. Lakartidningen 2000 Sep 6;97(36):3921.

Hofvander Y. Circumcision - Sweden as (questionable) international model. Lakartidningen 2001 Jan 31;98(5):474.

Schmidt D. An unpleasant thought about circumcision. Lakartidningen 2001 Feb 21;98(8):870.

The ethical problem of the State paying for circumcision of immigrants and religious minorities was debated in Denmark's leading medical journal. Brandt A. Ritual circumcision – a medico-social problem. Ugeskr Laeger 2001 Jan 29;163(5):630-3.

#### PAIN

Anna Taddio, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada, who documented short- and long-term negative changes in behavior after circumcision, published pleas for pain relief for babies. Taddio A, Pollock N, Gilbert-MacLeod C, Ohlsson K, Koren G. Combined analgesia and local anesthesia to minimize pain during circumcision. Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med 2000 Jun; 154(6): 620-3 Taddio A. Pain management for neonatal circumcision. Paediatr Drugs 2001;3(2):101-11.

### Highlights from the Medical Literature

Dr. R. S. Litman, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, pleas for pain relief for babies subjected to circumcision. Litman RS. Anesthesia and analgesia for newborn circumcision. *Obstet Gynecol Surv* 2001 Feb;56(2):114-7.

#### **PHIMOSIS**

A.M.K. Rickwood and colleagues at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, clarify pathological phimosis as a specific condition, balanitis xerotica obliterans, which affects only 0.6% of boys, and could eliminate 6000 unnecessary circumcisions annually. Rickwood AMK, Kenny SE, Donnell SC. Towards evidence-based circumcision of English boys: survey of trends in practice. *BMJ* 2000 Sep 30;321(7264):792-3.

Topical treatments for preputial stenosis to avoid circumcision in France could save 150 million francs annually. Berdeu D, Sauze L, Ha-Vinh P, Blum-Boisgard C. Costeffectiveness analysis of treatments for phimosis: a comparison of surgical and medicinal approaches and their economic effect. *BJU Int* 2001 Feb;87(3):239-44.

Topical clobetasol 0.05% once a day for 4-6 weeks can be recommended as primary treatment of phimosis in boys without scarification of the foreskin. Klyver H, Mortensen SO, Klarskov OP, Christiansen P. Treatment of phimosis with a steroid cream in boys. *Ugeskr Laeger* 2001 Feb 12;163(7):922-4.

Italian doctors criticize circumcision for phimosis: 'Since this operation entails the sacrifice of the prepuce and frenulum, the penis loses its natural protection.' The authors describe a technique which spares both the prepuce and frenulum while repairing the preputial stenosis. Cicia S, Florio G. Postectomy for phimosis: 5-year-experience. *Chir Ital* 2000 Nov- Dec;52(6):733-6.

#### **MORE TRAGEDIES**

Researchers at the University of Washington found a complication rate of 1 per 476 circumcisions. Christakis DA, Harvey E, Zerr DM, Feudtner C, Wright JA, Connell FA. A trade-off analysis of routine newborn circumcision. *Pediatrics* 2000 Jan;105(1 Pt 3):246-9.

Circumcision is leading cause of Fournier's gangrene, a mutilating and usually fatal infection in children. Most reported cases occur in the USA and Canada. Eke N. Fournier's gangrene: a review of 1726 cases. *Br J Surg* 2000 Jun;87(6):718-28.

Circumcision is leading cause of genitourinary trauma in newborns, according to doctors at The Floating Hospital for Children, Boston, including degloving injuries (Gomco clamp), glans injuries (Mogen clamp), laceration, and division of ventral urethra before placement of Gomco clamp. Patel HI, Moriarty KP, Brisson PA, Feins NR. Genitourinary injuries in the newborn. *J Pediatr Surg* 2001 Jan;36(1):235-9.

A 20-year-old suffered midshaft penile amputation. Silfen R, Hudson DA, McCulley S. Penile lengthening for traumatic penile amputation due to ritual circumcision: a case report. *Ann Plast Surg* 2000 Mar;44(3):311-6.

An 11-year-old suffered wound infection after ritual circumcision. Tasic V, Polenakovic M. Acute poststrepto-coccal glomerulonephritis following circumcision. *Pediatr Nephrol* 2000 Dec;15(3-4):274-5.

Most penile adhesions from circumcision resolve spontaneously, according to researchers at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, OH, who advise against lysing, except perhaps when they involve the circumcision line. Ponsky LE, Ross JH, Knipper N, Kay R. Penile adhesions after neonatal circumcision. *J Urol* 2000;164(2):495-6.

Rubin LG, Lanzkowsky P. Cutaneous neonatal herpes simplex infection associated with ritual circumcision. *Pediatr Infect Dis J* 2000 Mar;19(3):266-8.

Pearce I. Retention of urine: an unusual complication of the Plastibell device. *BJU Int.* 2000 Mar;85(4):560-1.

Siegel-Itzkovich J. Baby's penis reattached after botched circumcision. *BMJ* 2000;321:529.

Couper RT. Methaemoglobinaemia secondary to topical lignocaine/prilocaine in a circumcised neonate. *J Paediatr Child Health* 2000 Aug;36(4):406-7.

#### **STDs**

There is *no* statistically significant association between lack of circumcision and gonorrhea, syphilis, and chlamydia, according to a Kaiser Permanente (Atlanta, GA) study. Diseker RA 3rd, Peterman TA, Kamb ML, et al. Circumcision and STD in the United States: cross sectional and cohort analyses. *Sex Transm Infect* 2000 Dec;76(6):474-9.

#### THE "FORESKINS-CAUSE-AIDS" HOAX

Following Dr. Robert Van Howe's critical meta-analysis of literature that claims association between lack of circumcision and HIV infection (*Int J STD AIDS*. 1999 Jan;10(1):8-16), UK authors O'Farrell and Egger admit "a systematic review is required to clarify issue." O'Farrell N, Egger M. Circumcision in men and the prevention of HIV infection: a "meta-analysis" revisited. *Int J STD AIDS* 2000 Mar; 11(3):137-42.

Francis Plummer, et al., promote circumcision in their study on vitamin A and its relation to HIV-1 risk, claiming "Lack of circumcision and chancroid are confirmed as important co-factors for heterosexual HIV-1 transmission." MacDonald KS, Malonza I, Plummer FA, et al. Vitamin A and risk of HIV-1 seroconversion among Kenyan men with genital ulcers. *AIDS* 2001 Mar 30;15(5):635-9.

Szabo and Short call for mass circumcision of teen boys, suggesting the foreskin's rich investment with Langerhans cells – one of the body's key immunological defense mechanisms – is to blame for AIDS. Szabo R, Short RV. How does male circumcision protect against HIV infection? *BMJ* 2000 Jun 10;320(7249):1592-4.

The authors of a Uganda study admit the allegedly protective effects of circumcision of Muslims are confounded by cultural and behavioral factors. Gray RH, Kiwanuka N, Quinn TC, et al. Male circumcision and HIV acquisition and transmission: cohort studies in Rakai, Uganda. Rakai Project Team. *AIDS* 2000 Oct 20;14(15):2371-81.

### Highlights from the Medical Literature

Following a pro-circumcision literature review, authors from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine deduce male circumcision is associated with reduced risk of HIV infection among men in sub-Saharan Africa, and suggest circumcision in areas where men are not traditionally circumcised. Weiss HA, Quigley MA, Hayes RJ. Male circumcision and risk of HIV infection in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *AIDS* 2000 Oct 20;14(15):2361-70.

#### **ETHICS**

Experts explain the illegality of routine circumcision, concluding: "Amputating a highly sensitive and functional part of the body is extremely intrusive and should be undertaken only in situations of urgent necessity. Neonatal circumcision as it is routinely performed in this country clearly does not satisfy this criterion. It is therefore unethical and unlawful, and no parental permission for the procedure should be effective." Svoboda JS, Van Howe RS, Dwyer JG. Informed consent for neonatal circumcsion: an ethical and legal conundrum. *J Contemp Health Law Policy* 2000 Winter;17(1):61-133.

#### MEDICAL HALL OF SHAME

A backlash article against the 1999 AAP Task Force Position Statement on Circumcision exposes the personal bias of Stephen Moses, when he joins circumcision advocates as an author. Schoen EJ, Wiswell TE, Moses S. New policy on circumcision – cause for concern. *Pediatrics* 2000 Mar;105(3 Pt 1):620-3.

Pediatrics editor, Jerald Lucey, provided Schoen (Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Oakland, CA) space to promote circumcision to prevent penile cancer – an outworn scare tactic. Schoen EJ, Oehrli M, Colby Cd, Machin G. The highly protective effect of newborn circumcision against invasive penile cancer. Pediatrics 2000 Mar;105(3):E36.

Pediatrics published another article by Schoen, who reviewed records of infants born in 12 Kaiser Permanente hospitals in California (1996-97). He reported UTI

incidence in the first year of life as 2.15% in intact males, 0.22% in circumcised males, and 2.05% in females. With invalid findings because he included premature infants and those with urinary tract anomalies in the "intact" group, and with a minuscule difference between the groups, Schoen still touts circumcision as a preventive health measure. Schoen EJ, Colby CJ, Ray GT. Newborn circumcision decreases incidence and costs of urinary tract infections during the first year of life. *Pediatrics* 2000 Apr;105(4 Pt 1):789-93.

In the same issue of *Pediatrics*, Thomas Wiswell, UTI-scare-tactic originator, paid homage to Schoen and attacked the AAP Position Statement on Circumcision. Wiswell TE. The prepuce, urinary tract infections, and the consequences. *Pediatrics* 2000 Apr;105(4 Pt 1):860-2.

In a penile cancer review article, Spanish doctors unscientifically and unethically promote circumcision, claiming: Given the demonstrated relationship between carcinoma of the penis and hygiene, and phimosis which makes hygiene difficult, circumcision should be performed in childhood. Sanchez Merino JM, Parra Muntaner L, Jimenez Rodriguez M, et al. Epidermoid carcinoma of the penis. *Arch Esp Urol* 2000 Nov;53(9):799-808.

A study from Ben Gurion University, Israel, defends unhygienic conditions, claiming sterile conditions are superfluous for ritual neonatal circumcision, and the effort and expense maintaining an aseptic environment may not be justified. Naimer SA, Trattner A. Are sterile conditions essential for all forms of cutaneous surgery? The case of ritual neonatal circumcision. *J Cutan Med Surg* 2000 Oct;4(4):177-80.

#### **American Medical Association**

After reviewing 338 studies published from 1966-99, the American Medical Association formalized a policy against routine circumcision of newborn males, calling it a "nontherapeutic" procedure performed for social reasons. *Alternative Medicine*, 9/11/00.

### World News

#### **AFRICA**

Iten, Kenya – Ednah and Beatrice Kandie (17 and 15) challenged the legality of FGM in Kenya and won their landmark case, which prevents their father, Pius, from forcing them to undergo FGM. The father says he will respect the decision, and his wife supported her daughters. Magistrate Daniel Ochenja's judgment said, "Female genital mutilation is repugnant to justice and morality and is outdated in any society, especially 21st century society." *Sunday Telegraph*, 12/17/00.

Nairobi, Kenya – A 13-year-old member of the Luhya tribe of Western Kenya collapsed after a tribal elder mistakenly cut off his penis in a botched circumcision. *Reuters*, 9/9/00.

#### **CANADA**

Edmonton, Alberta – The Alberta military uses foreskins to develop an antidote for chemical warfare. Military scientists and doctors should get permission from parents, says Dr. Jan Storch, president, National Council on Ethics in Human Research. Parents are only told about the fate of the flesh if they ask. *Globe and Mail*, 2/19/01.

**Downsview, Ontario** – "Some amount of bleeding is a necessary part of the ritual circumcision. To suggest that I do them without any bleeding is damaging to my reputation in the Jewish community." Aaron Jesin, MD, *Globe and Mail*, Letters, 12/9/00.

continues

### World News

**Toronto, Ontario** – The Association for Genital Integrity (AGI) plans to launch a court challenge aimed at banning routine infant circumcision. The Criminal Code of Canada prohibits FGM, and AGI contends it discriminates against males by not providing equal protection under the law. *AGI correspondent*, April 2001.

Ontario – A Federal Court judge delayed deportation of a Nigerian mother because her 19-month-old daughter might be cut if they return to West Africa. She may now apply for Canadian residency. *National Post*, 2/28/01.

#### **EGYPT**

Beni Suef – Several million women in a country of 65 million people are repudiating FGM. With UN and US money, Egypt's Ministry of Health has begun extensive education campaigns, pushing to get activists into mainstream media. *Post-Gazette*, 2/25/01.

#### **INDONESIA**

**Kesui** – Muslim extremists forced hundreds of people to undergo FGM or MGM with kitchen knives or razor blades as Kesui island was "purified" of Christians. *Los Angeles Times*, 3/13/01.

#### **ISRAEL**

**Jerusalem** – Israeli scientists have developed artificial skin from foreskins to close open sores. Foreskins are also used in Israel to produce Inteferon, a cancer-fighting substance. *AFP*, 9/20/00.

Jerusalem – The health ministry plans to allow Israeli doctors to apply for certification to perform circumcision. Rabbi Yosef Weisberg, a certified mohel, said many parents want the circumciser to wear surgical gloves, but Jewish law prohibits it because it "requires that the edge of foreskin be ripped using the fingernail, and you can't do this wearing gloves." Regarding anesthesia, he said, "This too is forbidden by Jewish tradition." Zvi Paltiel, who has opened circumcision clinics, said "Babies suffer in a traditional circumcision. We want to spare them the pain." *BMJ* 2001 Jan; 322:10.

#### **PHILIPPINES**

Jagna – Two groups from United Church of Christ provided free tuli (circumcision) operations in Mayana and neighboring communities, where some 74 boys lined up for the "rites to manhood." *Bohol Sunday Post*, 5/7/00.

#### **SOUTH AFRICA**

**Bisho, East Cape** – The East Cape health department is awaiting President Thabo Mbeki's signature to regulate traditional circumcision, curtailing the circumcision of boys under 18 years and ensuring their health before undergoing the rite. *East Cape News*, 4/9/01.

**Umtata** – One boy died and 24 others were hospitalized in serious condition in eastern South Africa after botched circumcisions at an initiation school. There were fears that penises were amputated, according to Inspector Mabhelo Ngame. *National Post*, 7/1/00.

Cape Town – Hospital authorities expected an influx of males injured during tribal ceremonies, as the Xhosa tribe's circumcision season began. Two men died and another was in serious condition after accidentally cutting off his own penis. *Sunday Herald Sun*, 12/31/00.

#### **SWEDEN**

**Stockholm** – Parliament passed a bill, requiring circumcision be done by qualified medical professionals, with exemption for Jewish babies 2 months old or less. Members of Parliament recognized circumcision as a human rights issue, mandating the Social (Health and Welfare) Committee study and evaluate the issue, and report its findings in four years. *Correspondent*, 6/1/01.

#### TURKEY

Ankara – When they got to the last two, health workers who had circumcised more than 200 boys in western Turkey, cut off too much, and both boys underwent surgical repair. *Reuters*, 6/9/00.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

**London** – The General Medical Council found Dr. Abdul Ahmen, 63, guilty of misconduct for offering to circumcise an 8-year-old girl. A reporter with a hidden video camera negotiated for the circumcision and later broadcast the videotape. Dr. Ahmen insisted he had mistakenly said girls and daughters when he meant circumcising boys and sons. *The Independent*, 12/20/00.

**London** – A sudden rise in FGM in Britain led to a review of current legislation. A parliamentary group recommends tightening the law and closing a loophole that allows girls to be sent abroad to be cut. *The Observer*, 9/24/00.

#### UNITED STATES

Washington, DC – A pilot program, proposing to train 20 women to teach another business to women in Guinea who earn their living from FGM, won a World Bank grant of \$150,000. *Reuters*, 2/9/00.

**Chicago, IL** – Doctors and parents should not assign a gender to newborns with ambiguous genitals until malformations can be reviewed by specialists, according to the AAP Committee on Genetics. *Pediatrics*, 7/00.

Rockville, MD – FDA notification, "Potential for Injury from Circumcision Clamps," warns about complications with Gomco and Gomco-type clamps and Mogen and Mogen-type clamps. More than 100 injuries, reported from 7/96 to 1/00, include laceration, hemorrhage, penile amputation, and urethral damage. *Dept. of Health and Human Services*, 8/28/00.

**Birmingham, MI** – "Inadvertent obstruction of airway during breast feeding" is cited as cause of death, but the "accidental death" occurred 8 days after birth and just hours after his circumcision. State of Michigan, *Certificate of Death*, 7/28/00.

**North American Task Force on Intersex,** was formed by pediatric urologist, Ian Aaronson, MD, Medical University of South Carolina, in response to the growing debate over standards of practice for medical treatment of intersex children. Tel: 843-792-4531. *NATFI Press Release*, 2/23/00.

### Bulletin

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Abstracts: Seventh International Symposium on Genital Integrity, 4-7 April 2002, Georgetown University Conference Center. Send abstracts to NOCIRC, POB 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94979-2512.

**Stop Infant Circumcision Society** demonstration at the US Capitol, April 1-7, 2002, *Genital Integrity Awareness Week*. More information: sicsociety@sicsociety.org.

**Education at the Capitol Day**, April 4, 2002, 9am-4pm. More information: www.themenscenter.com/intact/.

## BOOKS, BOOKLETS, JOURNALS, NEWSLETTERS, REPRINTS & MORE

"An Emerging Ethical and Medical Dilemma: Should Physicians Perform Sex Assignment Surgery on Infants with Ambiguous Genitalia?" by Dr. Milton Diamond and Hazel Glen Beh, Michigan Journal of Gender & Law (2000), pages 43-46.

**Bumper Stickers** available at http://hometown.aol.com/gill6034.

Circoncision masculine – circonsion fèminine: dèbat religieux, mèdical, social et juridique (Male circumcision, female circumcision: religious, medical, social and legal debate). L'Harmattan, Paris, 2001, 539 pages, 290 French francs. To order: harmat@worldnet.fr.



**Graphic Arts Network, Inc.**, POB 432900, South Miami, FL 33243-2900. Suggested donation: \$30/thousand cards.

**The Ethical Canary: Science, Society and the Human Spirit**, by Margaret Somerville. Order online at www.indigo.ca.

**Equality Now: 1998-1999 Report**. Equality Now, 250 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 826, New York, NY 10107. Tel: 212-586-0906.

**Female Genital Cutting and Coming of Age in Guinea**. Qualitative study in English and French. Free. DHS Publications, ORC Macro, 11785 Beltsville Drive, Suite 300, Calverton, MD 20705.

#### Female Genital Mutilation: A Guide to Laws and Policies,

by Anika Rahman and Nahid Toubia. www.blahtech.com/zed/singles/1 85649 772 0.htm. To order press Home at bottom of page.



"Victorious Babies" by Alex Steelsmith

Female Genital Mutilation: Clinical Guidelines, by Leila Chung. Healthrites mail order bookshop, 328-336 Liverpool Rd, Ashfield NSW 2131 Australia. Tel: +02 9716 6099.

**FORWARD**: FGM Holistic Care for Women: A Practice Guide for Midwives; Friends are Forever; Female Genital Mutilation: A Case Study in Birmingham. FORWARD, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 50 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LX, England. Tel: +20 7725 2606; www.forward.dircon.co.uk.

**Genital Integrity: A New Awareness**, conference tapes recorded by Shelton Walden. Ordering information: www.AmericanReporters.com/Walden's%20Pond%20catalog.htm

**Genital Integrity Awareness Week**, photographs by James Loewen (www.nocirc.org/news). Ordering information: James3d@home.com.

**ISNA News**. Intersex Society of No. America. \$35/year. ISNA, POB 301, Petaluma, CA 94953; info@isna.org.

International Norms and Cultural Change: The Case of Female Genital Cutting, by Elizabeth Heger Boyle, Assistant Professor of Sociology & Law, 909 Social Sciences Tower, Univ. of MN, Minneapolis, MN 55455. boyle@socwci.umn.edu.

Male and Female Circumcision Among Jews, Christians and Muslims: religious debate, by Sami A. Aldeeb Abu-Sahlieh. Arabic. 2000. ISBN 1-85513-406-3. \$15. Riad El-Rayyes Books, Sanayeh – Union Bldg., POB 113/5796, Beirut, Lebanon. Fax: +961-1-743-641.

### Board

Promotion of Initiatives to Eradicate Female Genital Mutilation. www.gtz.de/fgm.

**Sex As Nature Intended It**, by Kristen O'Hara. 2000. \$19.95 plus \$3.50 S/H. Turning Point Publications, POB 486, Hudson, MA 01752. Credit card orders: 800-247-6553.

Sweet Dreams: A pediatrician's secrets for your child's good night's sleep, Paul M. Fleiss, MD, MPH, FAAP, with Frederick M. Hodges, DPhil, autographed copy, US \$14.95 plus \$3 S/H. NOCIRC, POB 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94979. [Excellent non-circumcising information.]

You Call This Love? The Real Reason Women Don't Like Sex, Lisa Bisque. US \$10.95 plus \$3.49 S/H. Amazon.com, www.iuniverse.com, and Barnes & Nobel.

#### **VIDEOS**

Circumcision? Intact Facts. 18-min. VHS. \$44.05. Injoy Productions. Tel: 800-326-2082.

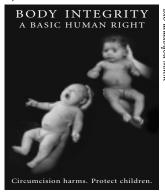
**Intact's Circumcision video**. www.intact.ca.

**Genital Integrity:** A New Awareness. NOCIRC conference and ICGI march to and demonstration at the Capitol videotapes. tshale@yahoo.com.

Prince for a Day: The Sumbawa Circumcision Ceremony. VHS. \$30. Book \$10. Royal Productions, POB 40150, Santa Barbara, CA 93103. Tel/Fax: 805-969-0311.

**Tahara**. FGM. 5-minutes. VHS. Sara Rashad, From the Heart Productions. Tel: 310-458-3298.

**The 8<sup>th</sup> Day**. VHS. \$30 (includes S/H). Keren Marcuze, POB 361425, Los Angeles, CA 90036.



**More resources:** www.nocirc.org (see pamphlet #2 and past newsletters).

Your tax-deductible donation will help ensure NOCIRC's continued success. Thank you.



## Seventh International Symposium on Genital Integrity

Georgetown University Conference Center, Washington, DC, April 4-7, 2002 International experts will address medical, legal, and human rights aspects of male and female genital cutting, the right of children to genital integrity, and social activism for cultural change. All presentations in English.

**Registration postmarked by January 15:** Professionals: \$65/half-day, \$120/full day, \$325/full program; Non-professionals: \$50/half-day, \$95/full day, \$250/full program. Please make checks payable to: NOCIRC, POB 2512, San Anselmo, CA 94979-2512 USA.

**After March 15, on-site registration only:** \$80/half-day, \$140/full day, \$375/full program.

Registration fee includes wine and cheese reception (Thursday), continental breakfast and buffet lunch (Friday-Sunday), and is exclusive of accommodation and dinner.

For program flier with registration form, send SASE to NOCIRC (will be sent early 2002).

**Continuing Education**: CE credits will be provided.

GIAW Website: www.themenscenter.org/intact/

**Accommodation suggestions:** Georgetown University Conference Center's Marriott reservation desk: 202-687-3235. Mention NOCIRC for special rates.

Use of Georgetown University Conference Center does not constitute sponsorship in any manner on the part of Georgetown University.

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