



HRSP NEWSLETTER

U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section

February 2015

FEBRUARY 6: INTERNATIONAL ZERO TOLERANCE DAY FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING

In recognition of the twelfth annual International Day of Zero Tolerance for female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), HRSP is releasing a brochure in English, French, Arabic and Amharic which explains that the practice is illegal in the United States. [http://www.justice.gov/criminal/hrsp/additional-resources/2015/hrsp-brochure-\(fgm\)-rev215.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/criminal/hrsp/additional-resources/2015/hrsp-brochure-(fgm)-rev215.pdf)

FGM/C refers to cutting and other procedures that injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM/C is a federal crime in the U.S. when carried out on girls under the age of 18; it is also illegal to send or attempt to send a girl out of the U.S. to have FGM/C performed. (18 U.S.C. § 116) The law applies to persons who perform the acts, as well as to those persons who aid and abet them. The crime is punishable by up to five years in prison, fines, or both.

Today the White House issued a statement reaffirming the U.S. government's commitment to ending FGM/C, "a serious human rights abuse and form of gender-based violence." <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/06/statement-nsc-spokesperson-bernadette-meehan-zero-tolerance-day-female-g>. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, in consultation with interagency partners and civil society, has updated its advisory notice about FGM/C and translated it into five languages. The notice will be distributed through consular posts in FGM-prevalent countries and through Refugee Support Centers to refugees as part of their out-processing for travel. <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/hrsp/additional-resources/2015/01-22-15fgm-notice.pdf> The U.S. Agency for International Development also issued a statement today calling for international unity in advocating the elimination of this harmful practice. <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/global-health/cross-cutting-areas/gender-equality/international-day-zero-tolerance-fgmc> The Department of Justice is working with these and other U.S. government agencies to find ways to document, prevent, and prosecute FGM/C.

The HRSP brochure urges anyone with information about persons who perform FGM/C in the U.S., or someone at risk of FGM/C, to contact HRSP at 1-800-813-5863, or the Human Rights Violators War Crimes Center at www.ICE.gov/tips, or by phone at 1-802-872-6199. You do not have to identify yourself when providing information.

To remove your name from our mailing list, let us know by sending a reply to this email.

If you wish to be placed on our mailing list, send an email to HRSPOutreach@usdoj.gov.

For more information about HRSP, please visit our website: <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/hrsp/>.