



February 6/2013

### International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

On this UN sponsored day, SOCEPP joins the international community in condemning female genital mutilation which is practiced in quite a few parts of Ethiopia and Africa.

Female genital mutilation, whether it comes covering itself on religious grounds or otherwise, is a gross violation of the rights of women. In some parts of Ethiopia and Africa (Sudan, Mali, Djibouti, Somalia, etc) it is practiced in its extreme Pharaonic form or as “mild” circumcision is an invasion and an assault on the body of the girl and the woman. The trauma and consequences of this archaic and brutal act have been documented more than enough. The religious justifications are not tenable and reasonable at all. Small girls suffering genital mutilation cast one of the horrible images of our continent to put it mildly. The Ethiopian girl—woman suffers not only genital mutilation but child prostitution, domestic violence, rape, modern slavery and murder both inside Ethiopia and abroad especially in the Middle East (with Lebanon being the worst and most racist violator of the rights of Ethiopian women subjected to modern slavery).

SOCEPP, along with the international community, declares zero tolerance for female genital mutilation and calls on local human rights bodies and civic organizations to fight against this inhumane action against women.

INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS INJUSTICE EVERYWHERE  
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