RELIGIOUS FATWA FOR BANNING ALL FORMS OF FGM/C

Forward:

For several centuries, Somali communities have been exercising different forms of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) subjected to young girls of age 6 to 10 years. According to statistical surveys, 98% of girls and women experienced FGM/C, which is not an Islam practice.

The Puntland government and civil society groups have been engaged for year in efforts of educating public and communities on the harms of FGM/C. They together advocated for stopping the harmful practice.

In view of that, a National Religious Leaders forums hosted jointly by Ministry of justice, religious affairs and rehabilitation (MOJ), Ministry of Women and Family Social Affairs, and Ministry of Health, issued a religious FATWA that bans all forms of female genital mutilation / cutting (FGM/C) which is practices in Somalia, particularly in Puntland.

FATWA:

Following a series of religious leader’s dialogue and debates on FGM/C, and considering prevalent Islamic thinking on the matter, the national religious leaders agreed on a common view regarding the FGC/C, which is in line with the guidance from Quran and authentic tradition of the prophet (PBUH) as summarized below:

- There is no verse in the Quran that could be used as evidence for (doing) FGM/C.
- It is a proven fact that female circumcision entails mutilation and altering the bodies of person who undergoes and this is contrary to numerous versus of Quran.
- All medical doctors agree that FGM/C results health problem to girls and women.
- That FGM/C results negative socio-economic consequences to the families and communities.

Therefore, the religious leaders calls for a complete stopping of the FGM/C which is commonly practiced everywhere in the country. The religious leaders at same time urge all Somalis, particularly those living in Puntland to abandon, for the sake of Allah, this harmful practice and any other unlawful acts outside the guidance of Islamic religion. The religious leaders use below mentioned Quran versus and Islam teachings in support of the FATWA:

A. “You will not see any flaw in what the lord of mercy creates”. (Quran: 67:03)
B. “...and there is no changing in Allah’s creation...” (Quran 30:30)
C. “Cause no harm and do not reciprocate harm” (Hadith)
D. And relevant Fiqi principles that ban any harm to personality safety of human being.

May Allah Guide us to the righteous path!