REPUBLIC OF BENIN

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Presidency of the Republic

Law No. 2003-03 On the suppression of genital mutilation women in Benin Republic.

The National Assembly deliberated and adopted,

The President of the Republic promulgates the following terms:

CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. - This Act seeks to punish the practice of female genital mutilation in Republic of Benin.

Article 2 - All forms of female genital mutilation practiced by anyone, regardless of its quality, are prohibited.

Article 3 - Under this Act, female genital mutilation are defined as any partial or total removal of external genitalia of females and / or all other operations on these organs. Are excluded from this category, surgical operations performed on the genitals prescription.

CHAPTER 2. - SANCTIONS

Article 4: Any person who has on a person of female genital mutilation in any form whatsoever, shall be punished by imprisonment of six (06) months and three (03) years and a fine of one hundred thousand (100,000) to two million (2,000,000) francs.

Section 5 - When genital mutilation is practiced on a minor under 18 years, guilty will be punished with imprisonment of three (03) to five (05) years and a fine ranging up to three million (3,000,000) francs.

Article 6 - In case of death of the victim, the offender shall be punished with penal servitude for five (05) to twenty (20) years and a fine of three million (3,000,000) to six million (6,000,000) francs.

Article 7: Any person who has helped, assisted, or solicited the circumciser, has provided the means or instructed, will be treated as an accomplice and sentenced to penalties by the author principal.
Article 8 - For a second offense, the maximum penalty will be applied without benefit of probation.

Article 9 - Any person who informed the preparation of female genital mutilation, would not act to prevent its commission will be prosecuted for failing to assist a person in danger and subject to the penalties provided for in the Penal Code. Anyone who has knowledge of a female genital mutilation is required to inform immediately the prosecutor or police officer for the nearest of law. The termination is not punishable by a fine of fifty thousand (50,000) to one hundred thousand (100,000) francs.

CHAPTER 3: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 10 - The managers of health institutions, both public and private are required to accommodate victims of female genital mutilation and to ensure the most appropriate care. They should inform the prosecutor or police officer nearest for law.

Article 11 - This Act shall be enforced as State law. Cotonou, March 3, 2003. The President of the Republic, Head of State, Head of Government, Mathieu KEREKOU- The Minister of State for Coordination of Governmental Action, Forecasting and Development

Bruno AMOUSSOU
The Minister of Public Health
Yvette Celine KANDISSOUNONSEIGNON
The Guard Seals, Minister of Justice,
Legislation and Human Rights
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