

Fuldaer Zeitung

Saturday, February 4, 2006



Professor Muthgard Hinkelmann-Toewe of the University of Applied Sciences, Fulda and the Provincial Commissioner of Nyanza Province, as representative of the President of Kenya congratulate a girl who was protected from circumcision thanks to the Fulda-Mosocho Project.

Success for the Project of the University of Applied Sciences, Fulda in Kenya

Many circumcisors renounce their practice / *ARD-Weltspiegel** report on Sunday

FULDA (vn) This coming Monday, under the motto of worldwide “zero tolerance for female genital mutilation,” the United Nations will make its appeal, now for the third time, to fight one of the worst forms of discrimination against women. Year after year three million girls are still painfully mutilated; the resultant damage to their health often lasts their entire lives and not infrequently leads to death. Professor Muthgard Hinkelmann-Toewe of the University of Applied Sciences Fulda is critical of the fact that international efforts have thus far failed to do away with

tically stem, this tradition so contemptuous of women. In order to overcome this deeply rooted custom a broad awareness- and action-changing learning-process is necessary, she says. And this is the aim of the Fulda-Mosocho Project, a project that is lending its support to overcoming female genital mutilation in Kenya. The training, whose participants have thus far been teachers from the Kisii ethnic in the Mosocho region in Kenya, has now reached the circumcisors of the region as well; motivated by clan elders, they also took part in the Project’s educational program

and renounced their old profession. Their decision to cease circumcising was then commemorated in a large celebration of 2,000 saved girls and their families in a stadium in the region. The circumcisors marched into the stadium and danced their centuries-old circumcision dance one last time. They then formed a semicircle in front of the girls, raised their arms toward the sky, and took an oath of their own design, swearing to give up their profession, effective immediately, and to contribute to the further overcoming of the cruel tradition. Former circumcisors

do not yet know how they will support themselves in the future. Hinkelmann-Toewe presented each of the circumcisors with a T-shirt featuring the statement “I was a circumcisor and decided to stop” and acknowledged the brave step they had taken. “The tenacity with which these women upheld the old custom will now go on to strengthen the new culture.” *ARD’s Weltspiegel* will report on the Fulda project and its success on Sunday, February 5th at 7:20 p.m. www.weibliche-genitalver-stuemmung-ueberwinden.com