



Alexander Alvaro, MdEP (FDP/ALDE)

Press Release

**FDP Member of the European Parliament Alexander ALVARO:  
“German NGO project nominated for the Sacharov Prize”**

**Strasbourg/Brussels, 7<sup>th</sup> September** – The FDP-Member of the European Parliament Alexander Alvaro has put forward a German NGO project for the European Sacharov Prize. “The Fulda-Mosocho-Project has been successfully working against female genital mutilation in Kenya since 2002”, according to the Liberals’ speaker for home affairs in the European Parliament, ALVARO.

The project, which was brought to life by Muthgard Hinkelmann-Toewe, deals with the fight against the brutal, painful and degrading genital mutilation of young women in Kenya, also known as Female Genital Mutilation, FGM. This practice has been taken hold and had deep roots in society for years.

ALVARO: “This makes it difficult to bring about effect a change of thinking in the minds of the society there. Through seminars, workshops and courses on site in Africa with, for example, teachers, clan elders and chiefs, the Fulda-Mosocho-Project can, however, already speak of its first big successes: In the affected area the circumcision rate stood at 98 percent in 2002; since the beginning of the work of the project the number of mutilations could be reduced down to 66 percent.”

After ALVARO had already in July announced his support for the nomination of the Fulda-Mosocho-Project, he started an initiative together with the artist Nils Ostkamp (Illustratoren Organisation e.V.), in which artists were called on to put forward their works on the topic of genital mutilation for the creation of a round table book for the members of the European Parliament.



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Alvaro: It pleases me greatly that a change of thinking could be initiated within just a few years, whilst a complete end to this cruel practice still has to be the aim. I hope that the European Parliament supports my proposal and recognises the significance of this project.

More detailed information about the Fulda-Mosocho-Project can be found at [www.fulda-mosocho-project.com](http://www.fulda-mosocho-project.com) or from Claudia Wegener, tel: +49 (0) 661 – 65062.

**Further information about Alexander Alvaro:**

Alexander Nuno Pickart Alvaro (31) is speaker for the ALDE party on civil liberties, home affairs and justice and chairperson of the “Campaign for Parliamentary Reform”. Alvaro has been a member of the Federal Board of the FDP since May 2003. The qualified banker and lawyer grew up in Australia and Germany. From 2000 to 2005 he was a member of the Federal Board of the Junge Liberalen (Young Liberals), at the end as the acting Chairperson. Moreover he involves himself in the work of Amnesty International, Deutscher Tierschutzbund (German Animal Protection Group) and that of the Stiftung für die Rechte zukünftiger Generationen (Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations).

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