



PRESS RELEASE

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Court Dismissed FGM Case Over A Baby's Death

GAMCOTRAP expresses profound disappointment and concern over the reported dismissal of the court case involving the tragic death of an innocent baby following FGM at the Bundung magistrate. The case has drawn national and international attention as a painful reminder of the devastating consequences of this harmful practice.

While we respect the judicial process and the independence of the courts, the dismissal of this case raises serious concerns about accountability, justice, and the protection of women and girls from harmful traditional practices. No child should lose their life because of a practice that has been internationally recognized as a violation of human rights and a threat to their health and dignity. The tragic loss of this infant should strengthened national resolve to enforce existing laws and intensify community education and protection mechanisms.



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This development comes at a time when efforts to weaken or overturn the legal ban on FGM continue to threaten the progress The Gambia has made in protecting the rights of women and girls. GAMCOTRAP remains steadfast in its commitment to the total abandonment of FGM through education, community engagement, advocacy, and partnership with religious and traditional leaders.

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- The Government of The Gambia to strengthen enforcement of the Women's (Amendment) Act 2015 and ensure that all cases involving FGM are handled with diligence and transparency.
- Law enforcement and judicial institutions to prioritize the protection of children and survivors of harmful practices.
- Communities, parents, and religious leaders to reject FGM and uphold the health, dignity, and rights of girls.
- Civil society organizations and development partners to continue supporting awareness creation and survivor-centered interventions.

The death of any child from FGM is one death too many. Justice, accountability, and prevention must remain at the center of our national response. GAMCOTRAP stands in solidarity with all survivors, families affected by FGM, and remains steadfast to ending this practice.

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