



Press Release:

U.S. Woman Charged for Transporting a Minor for the Purpose of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting

Date: Thursday, January 14, 2021

New York, New York-

On Wednesday, January 13, 2021, A federal grand jury has returned the first-ever indictment regarding the specific allegation of FGM/C, female genital mutilation or cutting, which is a form of circumcision, excision or infibulation of a minor's labia majora, labia minora or clitoris.

The United States Attorney's Office-Southern District of Texas identified, "Zahra Badri, 39, a resident of Houston, Texas originally from the United Kingdom, who is set to appear before a U.S. magistrate judge in the near future."

This indictment is timely as H.R. 6100 was recently signed into law. The "Strengthening the Opposition to Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2020" or the "[STOP FGM Act of 2020](#)," which increases criminal penalties for performing female genital mutilation on a minor and expands the scope of punishable offenses.

FGM/C has been documented in communities in Europe, North America, South America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. It is estimated that 513,000 women and girls in the U.S. are at risk of being subjected to this harmful practice. FGM/C is child abuse and a human rights violation that has no health benefit. It involves the removal of part or all of healthy and normal female genitalia, and is most often carried out on girls between infancy and age 15, though adult women are also at risk. FGM/C has both immediate, as well as life-long health and psychological consequences. Despite common misperception, FGM/C is not rooted in any religious or theological tradition. It is a product of pervasive social injustices and harmful gender norms and must be stopped.

The U.S. End FGM/C Network is committed to promoting the abandonment of FGM/C in the U.S. and around the world. We urge the global media to join us in our efforts by highlighting the stories of survivors as well as people and organizations that are actively engaged in raising

awareness around FGM/C. And we welcome inquiries from journalists, bloggers and social media creators to cover the U.S. End FGM/C Network events. Together let's end FGM/C!

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