

Female Circumcision an Issue in Deportation

The Washington Post

February 8, 1994, Tuesday, Final Edition

Copyright 1994 The Washington Post

Section: STYLE; PAGE C2; NATIONAL NEWS

Length: 307 words

Byline: Reuter

Series: Occasional

Dateline: PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 7

Body

A Nigerian woman went before federal immigration officials today to plead that she be allowed to stay in the United States to protect her two daughters from **female circumcision**. The case is believed to be the first in which the prospect of the ancient rite has been raised in an effort to block **deportation**.

If officials decide to **deport** the woman, Lydia Oluloro, she would have to either give up her daughters, Shade, 6, and Lara, 4, or take them back to Nigeria where they face almost certain mutilation of their sexual organs, said Janet Estoup, a paralegal working on Oluloro's defense.

"Every woman in her family has been circumcised," said Estoup. "She has been told by her family that her children will be cut because 'we don't want any American whores running around to embarrass the family.' " Oluloro faces **deportation** because her ex-husband, Emanuel Oluloro, a legal U.S. resident, failed to file a spousal petition to legalize her residency.

The painful operation, often done without anesthetic, involves the cutting away of the clitoris or the inner lips of the vagina. The procedure, which frequently causes infections and other complications, is common in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia, and occurs occasionally in the United States, mainly to children born of African parents.

Oluloro, 32, grew up in Nigeria's Yoruba tribe and underwent **circumcision** as a child. She said she believed it was a proper custom until she moved to the United States.

She said sexual problems resulting from the operation helped destroy her marriage and asked for a suspension of the **deportation** order on grounds of "extreme hardship."

Oluloro's former husband, who wants custody of the girls, has told reporters he opposes **female circumcision** and believes his wife's claim is "a tactic that her lawyer is using."

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: **DEPORTATION** (90%); CHILDREN (90%); LAWYERS (75%); MARRIAGE (74%); IMMIGRATION (73%); PARALEGALS (70%); FAMILY LAW (69%); PETITIONS (67%)

Female Circumcision an Issue in Deportation

Industry: LAWYERS (75%); PARALEGALS (70%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (94%); NIGERIA (91%); AFRICA (79%); MIDDLE EAST (79%); ASIA (54%)

Load-Date: February 8, 1994

End of Document