Droit au Corps Files Legal Complaint Against Circumcision Centers

PRESS RELEASE

Paris (France), November 27, 2026

The Droit au Corps association is filing a criminal complaint against persons unknown for acts of violence resulting in the mutilation of a minor under the age of fifteen, the unauthorized practice of medicine, and aiding and abetting the unauthorized practice of medicine.

This complaint follows investigations into centers offering ritual circumcisions for a fee. These investigations were conducted independently and in parallel by an anonymous activist and by Jordanix, a content creator who is releasing a video today documenting his undercover investigation inside a circumcision center.

Their investigations reveal, among other things, that at these centers:

- Children are circumcised without any medical necessity and at an age when they are too young to give informed consent (sometimes as young as seven days old);
- The individuals performing the circumcisions are not physicians;
- The anesthetic methods used are not always effective, resulting in considerable pain for the children undergoing the procedure.

Circumcision irreversibly alters the penis: it cuts off the foreskin and eliminates its protective, sensory, and mechanical functions, while leaving a scar. To help people better understand this, Droit au Corps offers an educational video entitled "The Foreskin and Circumcision: What You Need to Know."

"Droit au Corps is by no means opposed to circumcision, provided that the individual concerned is capable of giving free and informed consent," explains Nicolas Maubert, co-president of the association. "What we want is to open up a public debate on the conditions for consent to circumcision, in a spirit of compassion."

Numerous personal accounts and scientific studies show that circumcision can cause physical, psychological, and sexual harm, both in the short and long term. The arguments put forward by advocates of circumcision to justify the practice on the grounds that it benefits health do not withstand rigorous scientific or ethical scrutiny. The foreskin is a healthy, functional part of the penis; therefore, circumcising a child is unjustifiable in the absence of a medical necessity. Accordingly, no medical association recommends circumcision for healthy boys. On the contrary, several have taken a stand against it, including medical associations in the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, and Denmark.

The Droit au Corps association notes that it is acting as a civil party in two ongoing cases involving a ritual circumcision center in Bordeaux: one concerning "involuntary manslaughter" and the other "unintentional bodily harm." In addition, the association is supporting several men who were circumcised during childhood for religious reasons as they pursue legal action. Complaints are expected to be made public in 2027.

ABOUT DROIT AU CORPS

Founded in 2015, Droit au Corps is a nonprofit association registered under French law. Its mission is to advocate for the abandonment of all forms of sexual mutilation, defined as any modification of a sexual organ performed on an individual without their free and informed consent and in the absence of medical necessity. Grounded in an ethical commitment to prioritizing the alleviation of suffering, the association seeks to put an end to all physical and psychological suffering associated with sexual mutilation, particularly the suffering inflicted on children. Droit au Corps focuses primarily on male circumcision, a little-known issue that remains largely absent from public debate.

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