



Guest Lecture

# The Legalization of Male Circumcision in Germany: Dilemmas and Alternatives

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Abstract: In May 2012 the Court District of Cologne affirmed that male circumcision contradicts German law and found that it constitutes a harm, which violates the constitutional protection of bodily integrity. Subsequently, the Bundestag passed a bill in December to legalize the practice. In the talk, I identify three dilemmas that emerge from the controversy about male circumcision in Germany: ethical, legal and political. I argue that legalization is the wrong way out of these dilemmas and that a long term judicial exemption strikes a far better balance between the competing ethical, legal and political considerations.

**January 7, 2013**

**18:30**

**Beit Maiersdorf, Room 403**

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