

Bill and Linda Gates Foundation
500 Fifth Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98102
USA

03.12.13

Interview in "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" from 13 November 2013

Dear Mr Gates,

I am from Germany, Munich and I read today in my daily newspaper, the "Sueddeutsche Zeitung" the interview with you. I admire what you have done for technological progress in the world and I also admire what you are still doing for a better world with your Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

But:

Your foundation also invests in male circumcision in Africa. For the following reasons I cannot go conform to this politics:

1. There is **no evidence** that male circumcision is an effective neither for a single man nor for a population. The three studies from South Africa mentioned by the WHO in order to support their programs for male circumcision are scientifically suspect for many reasons.
2. There is strong evidence that male circumcision is leading to a **higher infection** rate in many countries.
3. Common sense comes to the result that circumcision gives a false feeling of security which leads to **neglect the use of condoms**.
4. Male circumcision is no protection against AIDS. If it were a protection it only protected men whereas the use of condoms protects men and women. In my eyes the circumcision program is **discriminating women**.
5. In USA the majority of adult men are circumcised. USA has a high prevalence of AIDS. Official programs from USA and your foundation are the main donors of the circumcision programs in Africa. As there are no relational evidence-based arguments for these programs the suspicion cannot be eliminated that the implementation of the programs on African people often with the help of the US embassies is an airway and act of **colonization**. I know that this is a strong reproach but as a European I know what burden colonization can be for generations.

My plea:

Stop your circumcision programs immediately. If they are still running make sure that circumcision of children is excluded. Invest your money in other AIDS programs.

I would be very pleased hearing from you.

Sincerely