



Participants March in Egypt under the Coptic Orphans Banner to end FGM after the death of a young girl

## Death of Girl Heralds Change in Egypt

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, Egyptian officials discovered that a girl had been killed. Karima died at the hands of a doctor while undergoing a procedure widely practiced in Egypt, but which has negative effects that last a lifetime. She was one of many children to undergo the procedure variously known as female genital mutilation (FGM) or female circumcision, in which a girl's genitalia is removed or damaged for cultural reasons.

Karima's death was not the first of recent tragedies. Only several weeks before, the Egyptian Ministry of Health banned any medical facility in Egypt from performing FGM after a twelve year old girl, Badour Shaker, also died while undergoing the same procedure.

The recent death of Karima shows that the health ministry ban is not enough, because without a law no one can enforce a ban. The National Council for Motherhood and Childhood of Egypt headed by Moshira Khattab has proposed a law that will actually make FGM a punishable crime in Egypt.

After the death of Badour Shaker in

July, Moushira Khattab also invited Coptic Orphans to take action.

Twenty girls and women marched in the streets of Assuit with other organizations to end FGM. Participants carried signs featuring messages such as "We don't want FGM for our Girls" and "Give Us a Law to Protect Us." One girl who participated in the march commented afterwards: "we have talked a lot about this practice, but marching for it has left a great impact on us. We must get this message to the whole world."

Coptic Orphans is doing just that. In Egypt, we are informing parents door-to-door of the dangers and health effects of FGM. Meanwhile, we are holding a forum on the issue in Washington, DC on October 9th to bring others together to talk about how to end this practice.

FGM will end in Egypt when popular opinion turns against it. This has already begun. You can join in the effort to end the practice by learning more about it and talking to your friends and family who are still in Egypt.

### "An International Passport to Style"

1st annual fashion show to benefit the Valuable Girl Project  
Sunday, September 23, 2007  
Washington, DC  
General Admission is only \$20

#### Special Offer

Open an account with Suntrust Bank and Suntrust will contribute \$100 to Coptic Orphans.

Go to [www.copticorphans.org](http://www.copticorphans.org) for more information or call:  
1-800-499-2989

#### Make your Presents Count

Enclosed we've included our new gift catalogue full of creative ideas to honor someone special and change the life of a child.

"I just wept, and called out to my mother for help. But the worst shock of all was when I looked around and found her standing by my side. Yes. It was her, I could not be mistaken, in flesh and blood, right in the midst of these strangers, talking to them and smiling at them as though they had not participated in slaughtering her daughter just a few minutes ago."

-Nawal El Saadawi

#### Coptic Orphans

P.O. Box 2881, Merrifield VA 22116  
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www.copticorphans.org  
All donations are tax exempt: 54-1637257

A financial statement is available from the Virginia State Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services upon request. Information filed with the attorney general concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney of the State of New Jersey by calling 973.504.6215. Registration with the attorney general does not imply endorsement.

----- "So that in this and in all things Your great and holy name may be glorified ..." -----

09/07

- Please contact me about how I can sign up for the special Suntrust Bank offer and raise \$100 for Coptic Orphans
- I regret that I cannot attend the "International Passport to Style" benefit fashion show, but please accept my enclosed gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the Valuable Girl Project, which the show will benefit.
- I would like to set up a recurring donation towards all Coptic Orphans programs:
  - \$50    \$100    \$200    \$500    Other \$\_\_\_\_\_
  - Please debit my checking account on the 15th of every month (attach VOID check)
  - Please charge to my credit card on the 1st of every month  
credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_ exp date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is my check for a one time donation