

The Hague employee As-Soennah mosque prosecuted for advocating female genital mutilation

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An employee of As-Soennah mosque in The Hague will be prosecuted for sedition and incitement to violence against women. The Public Prosecution Department in The Hague has decided this. In a film on the mosque's website this 32-year-old man could be seen advocating female genital mutilation. Female genital mutilation is a criminal offence in The Netherlands. On 18 December next a pre-trial review will be held. Since the autumn of 2015 the mosque's website contained a lecture. In this lecture a preacher could be seen who said the following in Arabic: 'Circumcision and genital mutilation is obligatory for men and it is recommended for women. For women it is not obligatory. The wisdom behind this is that the penis is cleansed of impurities that are present on the foreskin and for women it will lead to a decrease of lusts. On 8 November 2018 the first criminal report was filed in connection with this statement. After the film had been studied and subjected to legal interpretation (taking into consideration the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion) the Public Prosecution Department has decided that the employee has to explain himself in court.

