



The Politicization of Abortion and Hippocratic Disobedience in Islamist Sudan

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This article explains how abortion is understood within Sudan's Islamist state, where it is politicized through its association with illegal pregnancy. It also the silent disobedience of Sudanese doctors for the purpose of protecting women's reproductive rights. While abortion is not discussed in the domestic political debate on women's reproductive and maternal health, and is not on the agenda of the national women's movement, it has become politicized in the implementation of the law. A number of bureaucratic barriers, in addition to a strong police presence outside maternity wards in public hospitals, make it difficult for unmarried women to access emergency care after complications of an illegal abortion. However, many doctors, honouring the Hippocratic oath, disobey state policy, and refrain from reporting such 'crimes' to the police, to protect unmarried and vulnerable women from prosecution.

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