

## Ann Arbor

## Anti-circumcision activists wearing bloodstained outfits protest in Ann Arbor

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Anti-circumcision activists took their bloodstained message to the streets of Ann Arbor with shocking visuals Saturday.

Protesters like "Brother K," <u>the head of the Bloodstained Men</u>, and Harry Guiremand stood on the University of Michigan campus at South State and North University in white jumpsuits with stained red crotches.

"I found that the Bloodstained Man outfit is the most shocking protest that we've done," Guiremand said. "It's been the most effective at getting people's attention."

Guiremand traveled all the way from Hawaii to join in the 15-city protest tour, which was in Grand Rapids on Friday and will be in Columbus, Ohio, on Sunday.

U-M students like Wayne Poulsen, a junior, who was walking by Saturday, said he had never seen a protest quite like it.

"I noticed all the blood everywhere," he said. "So much blood. And the custom-made pants."

Still, Poulsen wasn't swayed.

"I think it's a personal choice," he said.

The protestors believe that choice was taken from baby boys who are circumcised at birth in America, which they say is in the minority for regularly circumcising its male population.

"Circumcision actually harms," said Nora Plank, of Milford. "A lot of people in this country are told that its necessary or that it has benefits. It doesn't. In fact it takes away a lot from a child and the man that they will become."

The American Academy of Pediatrics believes the benefits of infant circumcision still outweigh the risk of the procedure but stops short of recommending routine circumcision for all newborn boys, according to a statement made in 2012.

John Counts covers crime and breaking news for The Ann Arbor News. He can be reached at <u>johncounts@mlive.com</u> or you can follow him on <u>Twitter</u>. Find all Washtenaw County crime stories <u>here</u>.