

U.S. NEWS

The Bloodstained Men chop away at infant circumcision

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The Bloodstained Men protest in front of the White House. (via Facebook/Bloodstained Men & Their Friends)

About a dozen blood-splattered men descended on a New Jersey street on Wednesday and, although no crime had been committed, they claimed to be victims of violence.

The group, which convened on Nassau St. in Princeton, was protesting infant circumcision.

"Baby circumcision is traumatic, it's a violation of human rights, it's destructive, and it has no benefit," said Brother K, who legally changed his name in 1986 to protest against what he calls an unauthorized circumcision at birth.

[CITY DELAYS VOTE ON SCRAPPING CIRCUMCISION RITUAL POLICY](#)

Brother K has been protesting infant circumcision for 35 years and founded the group Bloodstained Men in 2012.

"The blood stain represents the shocking, appalling, and gruesome wound we carry on our bodies," he said.

The group brought along plenty of blood and, undoubtedly, caused a lot of wincing on the edge of the Princeton University campus.

Known for their white pants splattered with red paint on the groin, the group stood for approximately three hours, handing out literature, posing for pictures and carrying signs that read, "Whose foreskin? Bloodstained Men," "Circumcision is torture" and "Foreskin Theft!"

Princeton police reported no incidents from the protest, and the participants said their message was well-received in the leafy suburb.

"Princeton is an elite college, and we really want to get to young people who are open-minded," said one member, Craig Adams, 39.

"We had a lot of people come up to us and say 'Thank you,' and check out our signs. Of course there are people who yell things at us, too, but we feel like every time someone stops and talks to us we save a baby."



The Bloodstained Men protest in front of a CDC facility. (via Facebook/Bloodstained Men & Their Friends)

The Bloodstained Men philosophy is not strictly anti-circumcision. Although they do not advocate the process for anyone, Brother K's group believes the decision on whether to be circumcised should be left to the individual once he is an adult.

"We are strictly against circumcision of infants," said Adams. "We want babies to grow up with the bodies they are born with. We are protecting the genital integrity of all children."

Despite the dedication and passion that Brother K and his members show, legitimate medical organizations, like the American Academy of Pediatrics, insist that there are benefits to circumcising infants.

On its website, the academy [specifically addresses](#) the process, stating: "Evaluation of current evidence indicates that the health benefits of newborn male circumcision outweigh the risks and that the procedure's benefits justify access to this procedure for families who choose it."

Still, Brother K sees an ulterior motive to the academy's stance, even though the medical organization stops short of advocating routine circumcision for all infants.

"This has become a political issue in the American Academy of Pediatrics," said Brother K.

"I realize it's a serious charge, to accuse the AAP of deceitful and manipulative policy statements, but, in this case, it is absolutely appropriate."

The members of Bloodstained Men are in the process of a 14-day tour throughout several northeast cities, including New York, Albany, Boston and Providence. They plan to visit Philadelphia next.

"There's four of us on the road crew," said Brother K, who lives in California.

"We're doing the entire trip together, and we have local members of our movement who come out and join us along the way. We generally have a pretty big turnout."

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