

THE SENTINEL

They protest in Orlando against circummcisions in boys

By JENNIFER A. MARCIAL OCASIO
THE SENTINEL | MAR 08, 2017



The group Bloodstained Men & Their Friends has held several protests against circumcision in minors in several cities in Florida. (Courtesy Bloodstained Men & Their Friends)

Circumcision is a topic that has raised great debates throughout history. While health groups support it as beneficial for preventing infections, others consider it a form of torture.

It is a procedure by which the foreskin, the skin that covers the tip of the penis, is surgically removed. It is usually done in newborn infants, before they leave the hospital, and often even within the first 2 days of life.

This practice has a religious background in which the Jews perform it during a special ceremony for the baby to be 8 days old. However, it has been adopted in other cultures and religions. The purpose, with which doctors agree, is to keep the child free from possible infections and health problems.

However, there is no strong evidence for the benefits and for a proven reason to recommend universal circumcision.

Faced with this practice, groups and organizations come together annually to protest against what they consider to be an abuse of the male member and an abuse against minors who are subjected to circumcision.

Throughout the state of Florida and making a stop in Orlando, the group **Bloodstained Men & Their Friends**, spoke out totally against this practice which they consider to be a gold mine for doctors and health insurers. They took the intersection of Sand Lake Road and Orange Blossom Trail to march dressed in white, but with a bloodstain on the genitals, and carry banners with an opposition message.

The nonprofit organization has been marching in different cities for about 5 years to "raise awareness about circumcision and why no father should put his son through this," said Jason Fairfield, spokesman for Bloodstained Men.

"Not only is it not necessary, but it hurts. The foreskin is highly sensory and removing it the way they do, causes serious damage to the male member and the man. It cuts veins and other blood vessels, and worst of all is It has become routine," Fairfield said.

The protests this year began in February in the city of Miami, and **have an itinerary until the end of March** culminating in Miami again.

For its part, the American Urological Association, the group most inclined to favor the procedure, highlights the risks that may arise, some of them: bleeding, infection or complications such as meatal stenosis (an inflammation that can cause the growth of tissue in the area).

In the United States this is one of the most common surgical procedures although in recent years circumcisions in newborns have been reduced.

For its part, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) [**publishes on its website**](#) that subjecting a newborn baby to circumcision can have medical benefits and advantages. However, they highlight that there may also be some risks, although they say that it occurs only in 3 percent of cases.

"Evaluation of recent evidence indicates that the health benefits of circumcision in newborn boys outweigh the risks it may have, which is why access to the procedure is justified for families who so wish," they explain on their page.

However, the AAP assures that the existing scientific evidence "is not sufficient to recommend that the circumcision process be a routine one." "So as the procedure is not essential for the well-being of a minor, we recommend that the decision to circumcise rests with the parents who should consult with their pediatrician," recommends the organization.

"If there are no clear and proven benefits to doing this invasive procedure, there is no reason to make a minor suffer like that. They say it doesn't hurt, but watch the videos, how the children scream while they are tied up helplessly", Fairfield assured.