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## Group protests to end male circumcision in United States



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**CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (KCRG-TV9)** — A protest in Cedar Rapids on Thursday saw people donning what they call bloodstained suits to help spread their message.

The "Bloodstained Men," a nonprofit from California, is on a protest tour in five states with a message of ending circumcision of baby boys in America.

About five people held up signs at First Avenue and Collins Road Northeast. They call the procedure of removing foreskin from the penis "genital mutilation" and say it's destructive and unnecessary.

Rates of circumcision in the United States have been declining, but according to the National Institutes of Health about 70 percent of men in the country are circumcised.

"When you amputate the foreskin, you have essentially changed the nature of the human penis. And that's why the Europeans are so horrified. We've talked to some Europeans who don't believe that Americans parents are so cruel to do this," said Brother K, one of the protesters.

The American Academy of Pediatrics studied circumcision, and in 2012, said there are health benefits to the procedure, but not enough to recommend circumcision universally.

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