

MSNBC's *The Medhi Hasan Show*

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Time N/A

1 minute and 9 seconds

MEDHI HASAN: [Jesus] wouldn't be playing a glorified game of hot potato with babies — literal babies. And again, I must reiterate: This is not just one Republican governor going rogue. No, no, no. Apparently, flinging unwanted brown people across the country is now the bigotry de jure for aspiring GOP 2024 presidential candidates. Seeking to outshine proud, Christian, fierce, Bible-lover, noted family man Greg Abbott man this week was proud, Christian, fierce, Bible-lover, noted family man Ron DeSantis, who dipped into his state's \$12 million anti-immigration fund to relocate not asylum seekers from his won state, but asylum seekers from a thousand miles away in Texas and relocate them to the remote island enclave of Martha's Vineyard. And I really should correct myself because he didn't relocate them. He effectively kidnapped these people, luring them onto planes with promises of jobs and expedited visas and free housing in Boston and then he proceeded to send them to a tiny island with no support services and no warning to the people. If that's not what most people would call kidnaping, if that's not what a lot of people would call human trafficking, I don't know what is.

(....)

Time N/A

43 seconds

HASAN: Now, here's the thing. We can get as worked up about this as we want. We can pound our fists and fire off some all-caps tweets and, I don't know, sing America the Beautiful under the Supreme Court like House Democrats did after Roe was overturned. In other words, we can do absolutely nothing or this Democratic administration and this Democratic Congress can open investigations, hold hearings, see if there is a legal, crime case to be made against Ron DeSantis. Because otherwise, as the midterms approach, we'll continue to see brown families, brown children, brown babies hurled across the country like political footballs. What's that saying? Oh, yeah, the cruelty is the point.

(....)

Time N/A

1 minute and 49 seconds

ELIE MYSTAL: First I don't want to, you know, give people false hope. Not every evil, sadistic, twisted, bigoted, racist thing these people do is illegal. Some of those —

HASAN: Yeah.

MYSTAL: — evil, sadistic, racist, bigoted things are just allowed in this country. This is a country that has cut its teeth on the forced or coerced relocation of non-white citizens throughout

American history. This ain't new. When Joe Biden says that it's un-American, nah, sorry Mr. President, this is strangely American — using non-white people, weaponizing them, and carting them around the country, this is what this country has done in the past. However, and in this specific case, I think especially when you look at the migr — at the immigrants sent to Martha's Vineyard, we have reports that they were lied to, that they were tricked, that they were induced with false promises to get on planes and then ship some place where they weren't told where they were going. That, to me, is a violation of the federal kidnapping statutes. The legal term of art is inveigling. As I've — you know, as I think most people can kind of — their horse sense can kind of understand. If I roll down and invite a bunch of teenagers and say, "look kids, hop in my van, I'm going to take you to Disney World." And I take them to Busch Gardens. You know, and I take them to Old Williamsburg, that's kidnapping. I didn't take the kids where I said I was gonna take the kids, right?

HASAN: Yeah.

MYSTAL: So, I think that, in this case, Ron DeSantis told these people, including children that they would be taken to one place, Boston, which would have services, where they would get expedited work visas —

HASAN: Yeah.

MYSTAL: — and have housing and then sent him to a different place, that is kidnapping, and the person that we need to understand that, is, unfortunately, at this point, not Ron DeSantis, not Greg Abbott —

HASAN: Yeah.

MYSTAL: — we need Merrick Garland once again to understand that, and bring the full power of the federal government down on these people.

(...)

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18 seconds

HASAN: Molly, it was your Atlanta colleague Adam Serwer who coined the line "the cruelty is the point." What kind of person, let alone a self-proclaimed proud Christian, ships a newborn baby across the country like livestock, merely to make a political point, to own the libs? I mean, the cruelty, the cynicism is unfathomable.

(...)

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38 seconds

MOLLY JONG-FAST: I think, ultimately, the problem is once you start dehumanizing people, it leads to all sorts of terrible things as we have seen throughout history, so that is quite scary. And I would also say it doesn't seem to me that Republicans are getting worse — are getting better. It seems like they're getting worse. It seems like the message of Trump —

HASAN: Yes.

JONG-FAST: — is just to be as bad as you possibly can because the base loves it. And I don't — I think that's what's scary because it doesn't seem like there's any kind of backing up happening and I think that — I almost feel like couldn't the House have hearings and couldn't there be more sort of investigations into sort of, is this okay?

(...)

Time N/A  
2 minutes and 25 seconds

KURT BARDELLA: The political environment has become very toxic and poisonous for the Republicans heading into the midterms because of their radical, extreme stance on abortion, their assault on women's rights in America. How convenient that, as the political winds start changing, they start turning to these stunts? And we've seen iterations of this before. Remember the last time? It was the migrant caravans. We heard nothing about — non-stop, migrant caravans are coming, they're invading us, and then the minute the election ended, that story went away from them. This is just taking — this — that playbook on steroids to a whole new level. They don't want us spending anytime talking about their efforts to mandate forced birth in this country, try to mandate —

HASAN: Yeah.

BARDELLA: — taking away women's rights. They want us to talk about issues that they think they can win on. For so long, going back now almost two decades, they have seen the issue —

HASAN: Yeah.

BARDELLA: — of immigration, of migrants, of anyone that's not white, they think that's their wheelhouse. They can think —

HASAN: We can't —

BARDELLA: — that's what they can win. That's why they're doing —

HASAN: — we can't —

BARDELLA: — this right now.

HASAN: — we can't forget caravans, of course, Kurt, from 2018 and the last time we had midterms. Elie, how much of this is about race? If these were white families, white babies being treated this way, if this were, I don't know, the Polish right-wing government sending babies without warning on buses to London or Paris to make a political point? How much outcry would there be in comparison?

MYSTAL: They'd never do this to white people. We all know it. The fact that these people are non-white is baked into the system, it's baked into how they are allowed — how they think they can get away with treating people this despicably, by treating human beings as if they are — as if they are a garbage barrage that could be sent around the country, right? Like, that — the fact that — I want to pick up on what Kurt just said because the fact that Republicans think and might not be wrong that treating non-white people in this way is a winner for them kind of tells you all they need to know about the stated model of the Republican Party.

HASAN: Yes.

MYSTAL: And — and —

HASAN: Yes, it does.

MYSTAL: — I think that — that at some kind of deep level — and you know, I — I don't often make a distinction between MAGA Republicans and other Republicans. They all look the same to me. But, like, let — this, I will make a distinction because not all Republicans are like this.

HASAN: Yeah.

MYSTAL: This is a specific kind of twisted, bigoted evil that people like DeSantis are willing to truck in and that it works for them tells you all you need to know —

HASAN: It does.

MYSTAL: — about the monsters that support people like Ron DeSantis.