

MSNBC's *Morning Joe*

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3 minutes and 56 seconds

MIKA BRZEZINSKI: California Governor Newsom tells NBC News he plans to launch an investigation into flights of migrants flown from New Mexico to Sacramento which were orchestrated by Florida governor Ron DeSantis, saying that he believes that it's clear that crime was committed. Florida officials confirmed the DeSantis administration organized two flights to fly migrants from New Mexico to Sacramento. In a statement released yesterday, Florida's Division of Emergency Management said, "through verbal and written consent, these volunteers indicated they wanted to go to California." The statement included this video of migrants allegedly on their way, about three dozen migrants were ultimately relocated. They said that they were recruited for the trip outside of a shelter in El Paso, Texas. Several said that they were promised help finding work. Here's what California governor Newsom told NBC's Jacob Soboroff in a *Today* exclusive.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: FL Confirms Arranging Migrant Flights to California]

JACOB SOBOROFF [TO NEWSOM]: These flights of asylum seekers that are being brought to Sacramento, there have been two of them now, they have been described as state-sanctioned kidnapping by the attorney general of this state— of California. You tweeted directly at the governor of Florida Ron DeSantis — I want to get this right — you called him “a small pathetic man” and asked, “kidnapping charges? Is that — is that what you believe happened, Governor Newsom —

GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM (D-CA): Well, I think —

SOBOROFF: — that Florida kidnapped migrants and brought them to California?

NEWSOM: — yeah, I think I'm being generous while empathetic. Very generous. He's just weakness masquerading as strength. Yeah. He's flailing. Desperate for attention. Let just level set here, let's level set. Here's a governor from the state of Florida that is using taxpayer money, and he had to go to another state to find people under false pretense — I don't think this, I know this, I talked to the migrants — lied to them, took them into another state by bus, and then took 'em on a chartered flight to Sacramento, lying to them that they had help on the other side, knocked on the door, and they left these migrants right there on the steps. What kind of human being does that?

[SCREEN WIPE]

SOBOROFF: Ron DeSantis is going to be landing in this city later this month —

NEWSOM: Yeah.

SOBOROFF: — to hold a fundraiser for his presidential campaign.

NEWSOM: Yeah.

SOBOROFF: Should he be worried that law enforcement officials in this state will arrest him?

NEWSOM: Come on, now we're getting into hyperbole. Bottom line is,

SOBOROFF: Well, just —

NEWSOM: — we're for accountability.

SOBOROFF: — respectfully, I mean, I don't think it's hyperbole. You're the one raising the issue of criminality, potentially.

NEWSOM: We have — potentially? Yeah. And we have to do the investigation, and that — so, one — when it's ready, aim, fire. Not ready, fire, aim. And that's his approach. Our approach is to seek first — to collect all the facts. But on the basis of facts that were provided, and, by the way, I didn't take this in the third party — right — I was there with these folks directly and listened to how they — I mean, you know, human beings used as pawns for a guy's political advancement. That's pretty sad and pathetic. And — and so, I — I take this very seriously and as I said, we are not Martha's Vineyard. I love Martha's Vineyard, but we're not Martha's — this is California.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: CA Gov. Gavin Newsom Hints at Potential Kidnapping Charges After Migrant Flights]

Fourth or fifth largest economy on the planet Earth. We mean business, so Ron Desantis should know that. And everyone that has been part of this, they may have more direct accountability and culpability, should know that we mean business and we're not backing away from getting the facts and holding those accountable if they broke the laws in the state of California.

JOE SCARBOROUGH: Boy, that's — you know, fascinating interview and you can see more of Jacob's interview on — with the Governor — Newsom tomorrow on the *Today* show.