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RALPH NADER 12.02.2025

> A Trumpian Fascistic Coup is Underway—Stop It Before the Terror Starts



Image by Mike Von.

Rise up people and fast. Tyrant Trump and his Musk-driven gangsters are launching a fascistic *coup d'état*. Much of everything you like about federal/civil service for your health, safety, and economic well-being and protections is being targeted.

To feed Trump's insatiable vengeance over being prosecuted, being defeated in the 2020 election, or now just being challenged, this megalomaniacal, self-described dictator is harming the lives of tens of millions of Americans in need and millions of Americans who are assisting them.

In his demented lawless arrogance, convicted felon Trump is nullifying the freedoms and protections of the American Revolution (King Donald is today's King George III), and rejecting the Declaration of Independence (which listed the rights and abuses against the

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British Tyrant that Trump is shredding and entrenching). He is defiantly violating the U.S. Constitution, its controls over dictatorial government, and its powers exclusively given to Congress. The Constitution demands that we live under the rule of law, not the rule of one man.

While Trump enjoys Mar-a-Lago and his golfing, Madman Musk, a South African, is literally living in the Executive Office Building next to the White House, with his heel-clicking Musketeers, seven days a week (they brought in sleeping cots) guarded by a large private security detail.

Consider, people, that the world's richest man, with billions of dollars of federal contracts, is unleashing his henchmen to wreck the daily work of public servants committed to providing critical services that have long and bi-partisan support. Assistance to children, emergency workers, the sick and elderly, public school students, and people ripped off by business crooks. He is firing the federal cops on the corporate crime beat – whether at the FBI, the EPA, or the key Consumer Financial Protection Bureau which Trump/Musk are gutting.

Some headlines: <u>"Laws? What Laws? Trump's Brazen Grab for Executive Power"</u> by the great reporter Charlie Savage (*New York Times*, February 6, 2025). Outlaws taking charge, driven by greed for the government's honeypots of corporate welfare, and near-zero taxes for the rich and big corporations.

Or <u>"Searching for Motive to Musk Team's Focus on 'Checkbook' of U.S.</u>" by Alan Rappeport, February 6, 2025, *New York Times*.

Or <u>"White House Billionaires Take on the World's Poorest Kids</u>" by the super-reporter Nicholas Kristof (February 6, 2025. *New York Times*) shutting down The Agency for International Development's distribution of AIDS medicines, and crucially stopping U.S. health agencies from countering rising, deadly pandemics in Africa that could come here quickly without U.S. defensive actions abroad. Already the devastating effects on children missing healthcare and food are erupting.

Kristof concludes that all this (and the dollar amounts are very small compared to their benefits) may seem like a game for Trump/Musk, but "... it's about children's lives and our own security, and what's unfolding is sickening." It is also criminal!

When the forces of law and order reassert themselves, Elon Musk may become known as felon Musk. He is not a properly appointed federal official. He has no authority to send his wrecking crews into one agency after another, demanding private information about Americans, pushing people out, and shutting down operations.

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Musk, whose next target is the federal auto safety agency that has been enforcing the safety laws against Tesla and has not surrendered its regulation of self-driving cars (Musk's next big project). Musk refuses to disclose his sweetheart contracts with the federal agencies nor has he disclosed his tax returns. Demand them.

What is very clear in the first 20 days of Trump's lawless madness is that he is moving fast for *a police state* along with deepening the corporate state with and for Big Business. His prime victims are *not* the vast military budget at the Department of Defense, *nor* the big budgets of the Spy Agencies or of Musk's lucrative fiefdom – NASA, the Space Agency. No, like the bullies they are, Trump/Musk are smashing people's programs. They hate Medicaid (provided to over *80 million* Americans) or the food programs for millions of children. Crazed Trump is pushing to shut down many clean wind power projects and cut credits to homeowners installing solar panels while booming the omnicidal oil, gas, and coal industries. He wants many more giant exporting natural gas facilities near U.S. ports which could accidentally blow up entire cities.

Musk's poisoned Tusks have even reached Laos, Cambodia, and parts of Vietnam where mine-clearing efforts have been cut off. These are the U.S.'s Vietnam War era unexploded ordinances and bomblets that have killed tens of thousands of innocent residents, mostly children, in the past fifty years.

The Washington Post headline on February 6th, <u>"Musk Team Taking Over Public Operations"</u> understates the carnage. They are brazenly shutting down agencies, taking down thousands of government websites helpful to all Americans, and telling conscientious civil servants to obey or be driven out.

The Republicans in Congress, to their future shame and guilt, are surrendering their constitutional powers in the very branch of government our Founders assigned to check any rising monarchy in the White House.

The Democrats in the minority are just starting to protest, some in front of shuttered federal buildings. But they have not yet initiated *unofficial* public hearings in Congress to give voice to the surging anger of Americans (now flooding their switchboards) whose narrow majority of Trump voters are sensing betrayal big time. Demand *unofficial*hearings now! Federal judges are starting to uphold the violated laws.

The media, itself threatened by Trump's attacks, censorship, and who knows what is next from this venomous liar (see the *Washington Post's* Glen Kessler's January 26, 2025 piece <u>"The White House's wildly inaccurate claims about USAID spending"</u> or <u>"Trump's gusher of misleading economic statistics at Davos"</u>) will cover protests and testimony by

people all over the country. The rallies and marches have begun and will only get larger as Trump and Musk sink lower with their tyrannical abuses.

The career military does not relish the reckless buffoon that Trump put over them as Secretary of Defense. American business cannot tolerate the chaos, the uncertainty, the tumult. Thirty-nine million small businesses are already feeling the oncoming Trump tsunami.

Break with your routine, Americans. It's your country they are seizing with this burgeoning coup. Take it back fast, is what our original patriots of 1776 would be saying.

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