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Over 1 million protest across the US against Trump's efforts to establish a fascist dictatorship

What's happening:

- Anti-Trump protests in cities, suburbs and towns throughout US
- Over 10,000 protest in Detroit
- Over 100,000 protest in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore against Gaza genocide and Trump administration
- Over 30,000 protest in Chicago, thousands more throughout Illinois and Indiana
- Tens of thousands protest against fascism in New York City and New Jersey
- Over 35,000 demonstrate in Boston, largest protest since 2017
- Stop Trump's dictatorship! Build a movement of the working class for socialism!



Protesters gather in front of the Detroit Institute of the Arts, April 5, 2025.

Anti-Trump protests in cities, suburbs and towns throughout US

On Saturday, over 1 million people across the United States protested against the fascistic policies of the Trump administration and the rule of the oligarchy.

Reflecting the mass anger felt among millions of workers, students and professionals, it appears the turnout was more widespread and larger than predicted by organizers, with over 1,400 demonstrations occurring in the US, including up to 100,000 people descending on Washington D.C. alone.

Major protests drawing at least 10,000 people took place in New York, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Chicago, Detroit, Minneapolis, Boston, Denver and Atlanta. Many metropolitan areas saw a half dozen or more protests, each numbering thousands, as in Houston, the Bay Area, St. Louis and south Florida. In cities across Michigan, including Detroit suburbs Ferndale and Dearborn and the state capital, Lansing, several thousand people participated in demonstrations. The main focus was on the largest cities and on state capitals, but hundreds protested in smaller cities, such as Davenport, Iowa—the most since the anti-police violence uprisings following the police murder of George Floyd in the summer of 2020.

International protests denouncing Trump and his accomplice, the fascist billionaire Elon Musk, were also held in Lisbon, Portugal; London, United Kingdom; Berlin and Frankfurt, Germany; and Paris, France.

The protests are part of a growing international movement in the working class against daily assaults on their democratic rights, social conditions and living standards. Millions of people are outraged over attacks on immigrants, federal workers, due process and science, as well as the ongoing genocide in Gaza, Trump's ushering in of a global trade war and the rule of the oligarchy in general. There is a growing sense among millions that mass action is needed to stop the drive towards dictatorship and global war.



A quilt at the anti-Trump rally at the Detroit Institute of Art on April 5, 2025 reads: "Some of those who hold office are the same that burn crosses."

Most of the rallies held on Saturday were held under the banner "Hands Off!" a constellation of groups near, or directly integrated into the Democratic Party. At the largest rally in D.C., featured speakers included Democratic Representatives Jaime Raskin (Maryland) and Eric Swalwell (California). The Democrats praised the police and gave lip-service to constitutional and democratic rights, while proposing no concrete solutions besides electing the same Democrats who continue to "reach across the aisle" and enable Trump's fascist agenda.

Similar proposals were advanced by rally organizers and Democratic Party-approved speakers at other events who sought to reduce the global crisis of world capitalism to the individual Trump, with a few insults leveled at Musk. The genocide in Gaza was ignored by these Democratic Party operatives, who limited their appeals to calling Congress and voting for Democrats in the next election.

Over 10,000 protest in Detroit

Over 10,000 people marched in Detroit against the Trump administration's attack on the social and democratic rights of the working class and its genocide in Gaza. The crowd included autoworkers, educators, librarians and healthcare workers. The rally in Detroit snaked for more than two miles from the Detroit Institute of Arts, home to Diego Rivera's Detroit Industry murals, to Campus Martius downtown.

Significantly, at the Detroit protest, leading members of the Socialist Equality Party (US), including Joseph Kishore, Jerry White, and Andre Damon, addressed the crowd. SEP (US) national secretary Joseph Kishore stated, "This ruling class will not be opposed and defeated

outside of a movement of the working class, the great majority of the population, in a fight for socialism.”

Many protesters who spoke to reporters for the *World Socialist Web Site* at the various rallies also expressed an understanding that the problem went beyond Trump and that new organizations were needed to protect democratic rights and advance equality.

At the Detroit protest, one young worker told the WSWS, “I think we’re lying to ourselves if we say that the Holocaust isn’t here again, because we have camps, we have people disappearing, we have people dying, and we’re sending more people to Guantanamo Bay than we plan to keep alive there. No one should be going there in the first place.” She added, “I feel like capitalism has failed us and so have our politicians.”

This post will be updated with reports from the protests throughout the day.

Over 100,000 protest in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore against Gaza genocide and Trump administration



A section of the tens of thousands that protested in Washington, D.C. on April 5, 2025.

Two protests were called simultaneously in the nation’s capital, with over 100,000 people protesting against the Trump administration as well as the ongoing Gaza genocide that began under his Biden.

The “Hands Off!” protest, which began at the Washington Monument on the National Mall, was organized by over 150 different Democratic Party-connected organizations. Protest organizers initially filed for a permit for a rally of 10,000, then raised that to 20,000 on Friday evening. The actual size of the crowd was five times larger than they anticipated, stretching for blocks around the Washington Monument.

Protest signs displayed hostility to Trump and Musk in particular. Demonstrators denounced attacks on federal workers and agencies, the disappearing and kidnapping of anti-genocide

protesters and immigrants, as well as the raft of trade war policies the White House has announced.

While Democratic Party congresspeople and officials from the trade union bureaucracies sought to corral opposition behind the two-party system, many responded positively to statements from the Socialist Equality Party and opposed efforts to whitewash the political crisis by claiming opposition to Trump could be resolved by “voting Blue.”



Protesters in Washington, D.C. stop by a Socialist Equality Party literature table, April 5, 2025.

“This president is destroying the country,” said Bryce, a worker attending the protest. “My parents are federal workers that are about to lose their jobs. I have a friend whose brother was almost detained by ICE and she’s currently trying to make sure he doesn’t get detained. I’m in a union and these guys are union busters. It’s like this is affecting my entire life.”

Despite the Democrats’ refusal to speak about the ongoing Gaza genocide and attacks on pro-Palestinian protesters, the defense of free speech and opposition to the genocide were strong sentiments at the Washington protests.

“It’s really bad. I feel like this is just going to keep escalating and escalating and [the government] will just start deporting whoever they feel like,” Bryce added.

Other protesters spoke strongly of the need for international working class solidarity. Jana, a protester at the event by the Washington Monument, commented, “The working class has

really got to realize that we have to stand together on this. We have to stand together against this tyranny, against this fascism.”

“These tariffs are going to hurt everyone,” she said, adding, “not just the working class in America, but the working class all over the world. We have solidarity with our brothers and sisters all over the world. And it's time for the working class to stand up.”

In Baltimore, a crowd of about 1,000 protesting federal workers rallied outside city hall while Democratic city council members and trade union bureaucrats tried to placate the gathering crowd.

Many protesters carried signs of support for Kilmar Garcia, a Maryland resident who was recently kidnapped and deported to El Salvador. There was as much anger over the deportations as there was at Musk and the oligarchs. Many that spoke to representatives of the *World Socialist Web Site* expressed frustration that the Democratic Party “enables” Trump’s anti-democratic rampage and evinced general agreement with the perspective of uniting the working class internationally against capitalism, the root cause of oligarchy and dictatorship.

Over 30,000 protest in Chicago, thousands more throughout Illinois and Indiana



A section of the protest in Chicago, Illinois, April 5, 2025.

In Chicago an estimated 30,000 gathered downtown, spilling outside of the plaza and into the surrounding streets at the demonstration. The protest was organized by Democratic Party-affiliated Indivisible organization, among others. Numerous additional protests took place in smaller towns across Illinois.

WSWS reporters spoke with teachers from Illinois and Indiana, workers from National Institutes of Health, and others. A section of federal workers from the US Treasury had an

organized presence. Multiple protesters told the WSWS they were motivated to come out in order to defend democratic rights, including the rights to dissent and due process.



In Chicago, Illinois a rally-goer holds up a sign denouncing the detention of international students, April 5, 2025.

There was deep anger and dissatisfaction expressed at the Democratic Party’s collaboration with the Trump administration, its support for the genocide in Gaza and its role in the repression of student protests.

Many spoke out against oligarchic rule, and expressed their worries about the fate of critically necessary social programs like Medicaid and Social Security. Whole families were also in attendance, and parents approached the SEP/IYSSE table to purchase placards and express their fears about their children’s futures.

Tens of thousands protest against fascism in New York City and New Jersey

Tens of thousands of people gathered in the streets around Bryant Park in Manhattan, filling block after block to oppose Trump’s drive to dictatorship. The crowd marched down to Madison Square Park. Many had hand-painted signs that read: “First they came for Mahmoud,” “Deport Elon,” “Without due process, we are not a democracy,” “Stop the attacks on science!” and “There is hope—unite!”

In New Jersey, more than 20 protests were held throughout the state. A couple hundred protesters gathered in front of the municipal building and alongside the main commercial road in Bloomfield, a suburb of Newark of around 50,000 people. Protesters held handmade signs denouncing Trump's attack on the Constitution, opposing the brutal assault on immigrants, oligarchic rule, and the dismantling of government programs. In response to chants of “Trump must go,” and “democracy yes, fascism no,” a steady stream of motorists honked horns to register their solidarity.

In Maplewood, another small suburb of Newark, hundreds more gathered at the train station amid the rainy weather and marched through the downtown, before boarding the train to join the larger protest in New York City.



Despite the rain, hundreds protested in Maplewood, New Jersey, April 5, 2025.

Protesters also gathered in other parts of the state, including in the capital Trenton and in Atlantic City.

Over 35,000 demonstrate in Boston, largest protest since 2017

At least 35,000 people—with some estimates placing the number tens of thousands higher—gathered at Boston Common and marched to City Hall Plaza in the biggest anti-Trump demonstration since the Women’s March in January 2017. Placards were dominated by slogans likening Trump to a dictator, and defending freedom of speech.

Speakers at the rally included union officials along with Senator Ed Markey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu. Markey and Wu, both Democrats, failed to note the culpability of the state’s Democratic governor, Maura Healy, in enforcing the Trump administration’s round-up of hundreds of immigrants recently on the state’s streets.

Elsewhere in New England, an estimated 8,000 protested in Providence, and there were large demonstrations in Portsmouth and Concord, New Hampshire. Protests were held in dozens of other smaller cities and towns throughout the region.

Stop Trump’s dictatorship! Build a movement of the working class for socialism!

At the rallies across the US Saturday, supporters and members of the Socialist Equality Party (US) distributed thousands of copies of a Perspective statement published on the World Socialist Web Site.



Protesters in Seattle, Washington hold signs that read "Fascists they not like us" and "No Nazis" featuring the Tesla logo, April 5, 2025.

Across the United States, hundreds of thousands are expected to demonstrate Saturday in opposition to the Trump administration. Protests are taking place in cities throughout the country, part of a broader mood of defiance and anger among workers and youth.

Millions are horrified by the attacks on immigrants, the assault on free speech and the genocidal war in Gaza, and they want to fight back. But the determination to resist must be guided by a clear understanding of what is happening, what are its origins and what must be done to stop it.

The situation must be stated with absolute clarity: The Trump administration is moving systematically and deliberately to establish a dictatorship. It is implementing a fascist program aimed at abolishing basic democratic rights, consolidating unchecked executive power and crushing all opposition. This is targeting, above all, the working class. What is being tested today on students and immigrants will be used tomorrow to suppress striking workers, all social opposition and political dissent of all forms.

On college campuses across the country, a reign of terror is already underway. Peaceful protesters are being surveilled, seized, detained and deported for opposing the US-backed genocide in Gaza. Under "Catch and Revoke," an AI-powered surveillance program, students' social media posts and public statements are being monitored by the State Department to identify targets for removal.

Momodou Taal, a Cornell Ph.D. candidate, was forced to leave the country this week after federal agents attempted to seize him for challenging Trump's executive orders in court. Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia graduate student and lawful permanent resident, remains in

ICE custody. Others—including Fulbright scholar Rumeysa Öztürk—have been abducted in broad daylight by masked federal agents.

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2025/04/06/tlqt-a06.html>