

Mall with military demonstrations, musical performances, and a fitness competition.”

The price tag for such festivities could be massive, with two unnamed defense officials telling *NBC News* that it could be as high as \$45 million. In an interview that aired over the weekend, Trump called the potential cost “peanuts, compared to the value of doing it.”

“We have the greatest missiles in the world,” Trump declared. “We have the greatest submarines in the world. We have the greatest army tanks in the world. We have the greatest weapons in the world. And we’re going to celebrate it.”

U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.) said in a statement Monday that “this would be an unprecedented waste of money to please this self-absorbed con man, and the public should make

clear it’s unacceptable.”

“The egotist-in-chief wants taxpayers to foot the bill for a military parade on his birthday,” said Cohen, the lead sponsor of legislation that would “prohibit the use of federal funds for a military parade in the District of Columbia intended for the personal celebration of President Donald J. Trump, and for other purposes.”

### An Unconstitutional Rampage

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BIO: *Jake Johnson is a senior editor and staff writer for Common Dreams.*

**Trump and Musk** are on an unconstitutional rampage, aiming for virtually every corner of the federal government. These two right-wing billionaires are targeting nurses, scientists, teachers, daycare providers, judges, veterans, air traffic controllers, and nuclear safety inspectors. No one is safe. The food stamps program, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are next.

It’s an unprecedented disaster and a five-alarm fire, but there will be a reckoning. The people did not vote for this. The American people do

not want this dystopian hellscape that hides behind claims of “efficiency.” Still, in reality, it is all a giveaway to corporate interests and the libertarian dreams of far-right oligarchs like Musk.

*Common Dreams* is playing a vital role by reporting day and night on this orgy of corruption and greed, as well as what everyday people can do to organize and fight back. As a people-powered nonprofit news outlet, we cover issues the corporate media never will, but we can only continue with our readers’ support. [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org)

## BOMBING AND STARVATION EVERYWHERE!

By Salem Alaydi 5/16/2025

Salem, Rolla’s 18 year old nephew in Gaza posted: [bit.ly/salem-instagram](https://bit.ly/salem-instagram)

“We are trapped in the red zone.  
Our bodies are weak. Our hearts even weaker.  
We can’t evacuate.  
We are still breathing but dying slowly from the inside.  
This is what starvation as a weapon looks like.  
It’s silent. It’s cruel. It’s deadly.

“My neighbors can’t even stand. They can’t walk.  
We are walking shadows.  
Walking dead souls waiting for the next strike,  
the next moment we vanish.

Why is this still happening?  
“Is the world watching us die while munching on popcorn?  
Are they watching us burn while cutting into a steak?  
Scrolling past our suffering like it’s just a story?

“Our pots are empty.  
Our hands are shaking.  
Our souls carry the weight of death with every step.  
Each hour is just time borrowed before the next bomb falls.

“Yes, we have faith.  
Yes, we know death is written for us all.  
But not like this  
Not starved.  
Not slaughtered on live  
broadcast.  
Not turned to nameless ash and  
scattered flesh.

“This is not a war. This is an  
erasure.  
Where is your humanity?  
Are you really okay watching  
us fade away?”

Please CONTINUE TO  
DONATE, as you are able,  
and SHARE this GoFundMe  
widely, [bit.ly/gofundme-rolla](https://bit.ly/gofundme-rolla).  
—In gratitude, Dianne Monroe



Fadi and Hamza, 14 year old boys, who lost their father, started a small community kitchen to help.