

L'attacco al congresso è l'ultimo fiasco del populismo di Trump

Pierre Haski, France Inter, Francia

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Da quando si è lanciato in politica, Donald Trump ha avuto un vantaggio sui suoi avversari: nessuno lo prende sul serio. Ma la verità è che Trump è ciò che dice e fa ciò che dice, e nessuno può essere sorpreso da quanto è accaduto in Campidoglio. Si è trattato dell'insurrezione più annunciata della storia, anche se alla fine si è risolta con un fiasco patetico che non impedirà a Joe Biden di diventare il nuovo presidente il prossimo 20 gennaio.

Il senso di tutto è contenuto nell'ultimo video prodotto da Trump alla Casa Bianca, mentre i suoi sostenitori invadevano il campidoglio. Trump li invita a tornare a casa, ma al contempo gli dice che li "ama" e ribadisce di essere stato privato illecitamente di una vittoria elettorale "travolgente". È la definizione perfetta del pompiere piromane: da un lato tranquillizza, dall'altro aizza.

Donald Trump è responsabile non solo degli eventi del 6 gennaio, giorno in cui Joe Biden doveva essere confermato presidente dal congresso, ma anche di tutti i danni inflitti alla democrazia statunitense e di quelli, sicuramente carichi di conseguenze, arrecati al Partito repubblicano, uno dei due grandi partiti di governo.

Repubblicani paralizzati dalla paura

Trump aveva il diritto di contestare il voto presso i tribunali e di chiedere un riconteggio in alcuni stati. Ma resta il fatto che anche prima del 3 novembre il presidente non aveva voluto impegnarsi a garantire un trasferimento dei poteri senza scossoni in caso di sconfitta, e successivamente ha scelto di contestare il risultato al di là di ogni ragionevolezza.

Senza portare alcuna prova, Trump ha instillato l'idea di una democrazia tradita nell'animo di una parte dei suoi 74 milioni di elettori (soprattutto in quelli che appartengono alla frangia più estremista che abbiamo visto all'opera il 6 gennaio) alimentando nel frattempo le più inverosimili teorie complottiste.

Paralizzati dalla paura di perdere questa base, i leader repubblicani lo hanno lasciato fare, e questa è una colpa che pagheranno a lungo. Il leader repubblicano al senato Mitch McConnell ha tentato di salvare l'onore all'ultimo momento, dichiarando in apertura della sessione del 6 gennaio che non si sarebbe opposto alla conferma della vittoria di Biden e aggiungendo che nessuna elezione potrebbe mai più essere accettata nel paese se il congresso decidesse di opporsi alle decisioni dei tribunali e degli stati.

Questa viltà mantenuta per troppo tempo dai repubblicani più ragionevoli ha permesso il caos del 6 gennaio e ha indebolito la democrazia americana.

I limiti del populismo

La lezione più importante che possiamo trarre dagli avvenimenti di Washington riguarda il fallimento di un "momento populista" negli Stati Uniti. Trump aveva incarnato una rivolta elettorale contro un sistema che genera fin troppe disuguaglianze, simboleggiato da Hillary Clinton nel 2016.

Ma Trump non ha saputo trasformare questo capitale politico in una forza di progresso, facendone piuttosto uno strumento al servizio di un potere personale e incoerente. La sua radicalizzazione degli ultimi mesi gli lascia come alleate solo le frange più estremiste del nazionalismo bianco e tutti gli opportunisti che pensano esclusivamente alle prossime elezioni.

Tutto questo ha ormai perso ogni legame con la rivolta elettorale del 2016, e dimostra ancora una volta i limiti dell'ondata populista che ha colpito una parte del mondo.

Joe Biden si considera come l'uomo della riconciliazione in un paese diviso. Il trauma delle immagini del 6 gennaio, probabilmente, lo aiuterà a rimettere insieme i pezzi di un'America scombusolata.

(Traduzione di Andrea Sparacino)

Internazionale ha una newsletter settimanale che racconta cosa succede negli Stati Uniti. Ci si iscrive qui.

A visual timeline on how the attack on Capitol Hill unfolded

Rioters from a Trump rally stormed the U.S. Capitol as Congress was in session.

By [Julia Jacobo](#)
10 January 2021, 15:01 • 6 min read



US Capitol riots: Tracking the insurrection

On Jan. 6, rioters coming from a pro-Trump rally broke into the U.S. Capitol, resulting in deaths... [Read More](#)

A rally in support of President [Donald Trump](#) turned deadly when thousands of attendees stormed the U.S. Capitol building on Wednesday.

The unprecedented chaos in the nation's capital began midday Wednesday at a "Save America" rally at the Ellipse, a park near the White House, where Trump incited his supporters to march to Capitol Hill, where Congress was meeting to certify [Joe Biden](#) as the 46th president of the United States.



Roberto Schmidt/AFP via Getty Images

Trump supporters clash with police and security forces as they push barricades to storm the Capitol. [Read More](#)

Federal law enforcement vehicles raced to the Capitol in an effort to beat the mob there. Soon, after breaching through barricades and security checkpoints, the protesters were inside the building -- forcing lawmakers to go into lockdown.

[+ 4 dead after US Capitol breached by pro-Trump mob during 'failed insurrection'](#)

Members of the angry mob went door to door waving Confederate flags, looting the offices of senators and congressmen and repeating the false rhetoric that the president has spread since November -- that Trump was the real winner of the election.

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FBI raids homes of 2 men who held rally on eve of Capitol attack

By [Paul P. Murphy](#) and [Marshall Cohen](#), CNN

Updated 1429 GMT (2229 HKT) February 3, 2021

Washington (CNN) — The FBI recently raided the homes of two men who sponsored an invective-laced rally near the US Capitol a day before the deadly insurrection, the first known search warrants involving people who organized and spoke at rallies preceding the attack.

CNN learned of the raids through an eyewitness account, public records, a lawyer representing one of the rally organizers and an FBI spokeswoman who confirmed details of the searches.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller confirmed that federal agents executed search warrants last week at two properties in Orange County, California, which public records indicate belong to Russell Taylor and Alan Hostetter. The two men run the American Phoenix Project, which co-sponsored a pro-[Donald Trump](#) rally near the Supreme Court on January 5, one day before the attack.

Neither man has been charged with any crimes.

[Footage of the rally](#) shows the men spewing militant vitriol: Hostetter told the crowd to prepare for "war tomorrow" against "vipers" in Congress who refused to nullify [President Joe Biden's](#) win. Taylor said, "We will not return to our peaceful way of life until this election is made right."

Court documents related to the search warrants are still under seal, but the raids are the first publicly known federal actions against people who organized rallies linked to the Capitol attack. Federal investigators have issued [more than 500 subpoenas and search warrants](#) in the probe.

A key question about the fledgling investigation has been how aggressively prosecutors will [scrutinize the people](#) who organized and spoke at rallies that preceded the stunning assault.

Search warrants

Taylor and Hostetter are well-documented promoters of conspiracy theories ranging from QAnon and the "deep state" to those related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the 2020 presidential election.

An FBI spokesperson told CNN the search was conducted at the property Taylor owns at 6 a.m. Wednesday. CNN obtained photos and videos of FBI agents at his house hours later.

Spokespeople for the FBI and the Justice Department declined to comment further about the raids or what investigators were searching for, noting that the case files are still sealed.

A lawyer for Taylor, Dyke Huish, told CNN that the agents were "just gathering information on people that were at or near the Capitol building on the day in question," referring to January 6. Huish said Taylor "cooperated with investigators" and the search was finished "without incident." Eimiller, the FBI spokeswoman, said "no arrests were made" during the searches.

Taylor acknowledged the raid on his Orange County home in a Telegram post on Friday. Using a pseudonym, Taylor urged his followers to "hold the line," adding, "I am working with a lawyer and per his recommendation he said to keep on the down low for a bit to stay off any radars."

Hostetter didn't respond to multiple requests for comment about the raid or his DC rally.

rally near the White House with Trump one day later, told CNN that nobody at the organization had been interviewed by the FBI either.

Violent rhetoric

Through their [right-wing organization](#), Taylor and Hostetter secured speaking slots at the rally, and used their speeches to spew violent, battle-ready rhetoric.

Weeks earlier, they reached out to Virginia Women for Trump, which was planning an event at the Supreme Court on January 5, one day before Congress would tally the electoral votes and put the [final nail in the coffin](#) of Trump's effort to overturn his loss.

Alice Butler-Short, founder of Virginia Women for Trump, said she primarily organized the rally and invited the speakers, but Taylor and Hostetter helped pay for the logistics and security.

"They kind of found me on Facebook," Butler-Short said in an interview with CNN.

The lineup of speakers also included the far-right [conspiracy theorist Ali Alexander](#), who ran a "Stop the Steal" group, and Trump ally Roger Stone, who supports the Proud Boys extremist group. They pushed the debunked conspiracy theory that the election was stolen from Trump. Though Stone said, "We renounce violence," Hostetter ratcheted things up in his speech.

"We are at war in this country," Hostetter said. "We are at war tomorrow."

He continued, "Our voices tomorrow are going to put the fear of God in the cowards and the traitors, the (Republicans in name only), the communists of the Democrat Party, they need to know we as a people, a hundred million strong, are coming for them if they do the wrong thing."

"I will see you all tomorrow at the frontlines," Hostetter said as he ended the speech. "We are taking our country back."

Taylor expressed support for QAnon in his speech and issued a call-to-arms, saying, "In these streets we will fight, and we will bleed before we allow our freedom to be taken from us." (Huish, his attorney, later claimed he was speaking metaphorically and "has never called for violence.")

The frontlines

Taylor's lawyer tried to distance his client from the mob that invaded the Capitol, saying Taylor was "outside" but "never entered the building nor did he cause any damage to the building."

"His sole purpose in going to Washington DC was to participate in a peaceful and patriotic protest in those things that he believes to be true and correct," Huish told CNN in a statement.

In a since-deleted Instagram video from January 6, Hostetter said he was avoiding the Ellipse because he had "gear" that wouldn't be allowed in. In another video obtained by CNN, Taylor said he was walking towards the Capitol and said he was just informed that rioters had breached barricades near the building. He is wearing a flak jacket with what looks like a knife sticking out.

"We'll see if the Capitol Police are oath keepers of the Constitution," Taylor is heard saying.

Photos from Hostetter's Instagram and photojournalists place him and Taylor just outside the Capitol building during the riot. An AFP photographer [snapped an image](#) of Taylor giving police the finger around 4:30 p.m. near the North side of the Capitol, near the entrance to the Senate.

Two other photos show Taylor near a police line on the North side of the Capitol. [One photo](#) shows him



Federal prosecutors investigate possible seditious conspiracy charges in Capitol assault

BY ERIN DONAGHUE
JANUARY 13, 2021 / 7:17 AM / CBS NEWS

A Washington, D.C., federal prosecutor says his office is looking into possible seditious conspiracy charges as a part of a massive, "unprecedented" federal investigation into the January 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol.

Acting U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Michael Sherwin said Tuesday a "strike force" of senior national security and public corruption prosecutors within his office are investigating charges related to the "most heinous" acts that occurred at the Capitol. Sherwin said the team is investigating whether rioters coordinated and planned their assault, combing through travel records, financial information and communications.

Since the assault, which left a Capitol Police officer and four others dead, the FBI has opened more than 170 "subject files," meaning individuals identified as potentially having committed a crime either inside or outside the Capitol, Sherwin said. Of those, more than 70 people are facing charges in local and federal court, with a range of counts including unlawful entry, disorderly conduct, theft, assault, and weapons violations.

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Sherwin said some of those already charged with lower-level offenses like trespassing could face more serious felony charges as prosecutors continue to build their case.

#FBIWFO is offering a reward of up to \$50K for info leading to the location, arrest & conviction of the person(s) responsible for the pipe bombs found in DC on Jan. 6. <https://t.co/q9pdw6Rnoy>
pic.twitter.com/aQ7Vz4uydO

– FBI Washington Field (@FBIWFO) January 8, 2021

Seditious conspiracy – defined as two or more people who conspire to overthrow the government by force, oppose the government's authority by force, or "prevent, hinder or delay" the execution of any U.S. law by force – is punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Sherwin said the office is prioritizing the prosecution of assaults on local and federal officers both inside and outside the Capitol, saying some officers were engaged in "open-handed combat" with some of the rioters.

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"I think people are going to be shocked with some of the egregious contact that happened within the Capitol," Sherwin said.

Sherwin said a team of prosecutors had also been assigned to investigating assaults on members of the media, some of whom were "specifically targeted" by the mob. The office was also prioritizing crimes involving weapons and destructive devices, Sherwin said.



Feds give update on U.S. Capitol attack

The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$50,000 for info leading to the arrest and conviction of a person wanted for planting pipe bombs outside the Republican National Committee and Democratic National Committee headquarters on the day of the assault.

Sherwin said other possible charges included theft of potential national security information, felony murder and civil rights excessive force investigations.

...d the scope and scale of the federal investigation
...ed," with thousands of potential witnesses and likely hundreds

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more suspects to be charged in the coming weeks as investigators comb through social media and a flood of digital tips.

Steven D'Antuono, assistant director in charge of the FBI Washington Field Office, said his investigators have received more than 100,000 pieces of digital media, which he called "absolutely fantastic." He asked the public to continue submitting tips.

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Erin Donaghue

Sherwin said investigators are focused on the most significant charges as a "deterrent" but issued a warning to anyone involved in the riot: "Regardless of whether it was just a trespass in the Capitol or someone planted a pipe bomb, you will be charged and you will be found."

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US Capitol Hill siege, explained: What happened, who was involved and is Trump to blame?

US Capitol Hill Siege: An armed and angry mob of Trump supporters stormed Capitol Hill and clashed with police on Wednesday as Congress convened to validate Joe Biden's presidential win. What led to the siege, and why is Trump being blamed?

By: **Explained Desk** | Updated: January 22, 2021 2:39:19 pm



An explosion caused by a police munition is seen while supporters of US President Donald Trump gather in front of the Capitol Building in Washington, U.S., January 6, 2021. (Reuters Photo: Leah Millis)