

NSPM-7: Countering or perpetrating political violence?

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On September 25, 2025, President Donald Trump issued [National Security Presidential Memorandum 7](#) (NSPM-7) titled *Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence*. In justifying the need for such a measure, the president states that politically motivated violence is increasing dramatically in the U.S., but he only cites acts of violence perpetrated by so-called leftist groups and completely ignores violence from the right. For example, he never mentions the insurrection at the Capitol on January 6, 2021 or the murders of two Minnesota state legislators and their spouses in June 2025.

The president believes that a vast left-wing conspiracy is behind these acts, although there is little evidence to support such a claim. NSPM-7 calls on federal agencies to prioritize investigation of a number of identities and ideologies that it sees as anti-fascist. These include “anti-Americanism, anti-capitalism, and anti-Christianity; support for the overthrow of the United States Government; extremism on migration, race, and gender; and hostility towards those who hold traditional American views on family, religion, and morality.”

[As the Brennan Center notes](#), “this breathtakingly broad list easily encompasses everyone from labor organizers, socialists, many libertarians, those who criticize Christianity, pro-immigration groups, anti-ICE protesters, and racial justice and transgender activists, to anyone who holds views that the administration considers to be ‘anti-American.’ Under NSPM-7, the antifascist label can be attached to any of these types of people and groups and many more besides, giving the government maximum flexibility to pick and choose its targets.”

However, [in their analysis of NSPM-7, the ACLU says](#) that “the president cannot rewrite the Constitution by memo or otherwise. No matter what the president says or tries to do through NSPM-7, the First Amendment constrains what federal agencies can do when it comes to punishing groups and people for exercising their rights to free speech, peaceful protest, and supporting causes by making donations. It also safeguards against viewpoint-based government discrimination, coercion, and retaliation.”