ELON MUSK WANTS JEWS AND BLACKS TO BE KILLED

Fears for 'security of Jews worldwide' in wake of Elon Musk AfD speech Top US Jewish advocate Halie Soifer calls Trump adviser's address to far-right Germany rally 'incredibly dangerous'

Elon Musk's remarks to a German far-right party that Germans <u>should not focus</u> on their country's Nazi past should prompt "deep concern" about "the security of American Jews" and "of Jews worldwide", a leading US Jewish advocate has told the Guardian.

Jewish non-profit chief says Musk will spur violence with his 'Nazi salute' Read more

"Speaking as a deeply concerned American Jew," said Halie Soifer, chief executive of the Jewish Democratic Council of America (JDCA), "I am deeply concerned about the security of American Jews, of Jews worldwide, given our president's clear alignment with dangerous rightwing extremists."

Musk, the owner of Tesla, SpaceX and X and the world's richest person, donated hundreds of millions of dollars to Donald Trump's campaign and is now a close adviser with an office in the White House complex.

In a video address to the Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) party on Friday, Musk <u>said</u> it was "good to be proud of German culture, German values, and not to lose that in some sort of multiculturalism that dilutes everything"; said "children should not be guilty of the sins of their parents, let alone their great-grandparents"; and said there was "too much focus on past guilt, and we need to move beyond that".

He also gave two fascist-style salutes last week, during a speech at Trump's inauguration.

Elon Musk appears to give fascist-style salute after Trump inauguration - video

Soifer's response comes after world leaders marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz, in Poland.

Given her leadership of the JDCA, and a résumé that includes stints advising Kamala Harris and Democratic senators and working on Barack Obama's first presidential campaign, Soifer said she knew she "may be viewed as partisan".

But she said: "This administration is clearly attempting to remake the world order in its image. And Elon addressing the AfD, encouraging the AfD, clearly aligning with the AfD is also a form of election interference, in addition to being incredibly dangerous, given the extreme views of many of its members.

"It is not the norm for a senior adviser to the US president to align with a [foreign] political party in advance of elections" next month.

Amid outcry over his salutes and his comments to the AfD, Musk has denied far-right sympathies while gleefully trolling his critics. On Sunday, he pinned to his X account a Latin motto – "Nemo me impune lacessit", or "No one provokes me with impunity" – which Musk attributed to <u>Sulla</u>, a Roman dictator, but which is <u>actually</u> the national motto of Scotland.

Soifer said: "The salute, the message to the AfD, the fact that he is willing to joke about the criticism he is getting, it all demonstrates that [those around Trump] are unwilling to recognize how dangerous their words and actions are.

"They don't deserve the benefit of the doubt when it comes to this alignment. It has been a steady stream of signaling to rightwing extremists that they have an ally now in the White House."

On his first day back in office, Trump pardoned more than 1,500 people convicted over the Capitol attack of 6 January 2021. He has signed executive orders instituting hardline immigration policies including plans for mass deportations.

Soifer said it was imperative opponents of Trump and Musk continue to condemn extremist behavior and language, because "words and signaling have dangerous consequences and Trump and his allies, including <u>Elon Musk</u>, are giving a green light to extremists.

"It's important that that American voters, especially those who may have supported Donald Trump, open their eyes and see what's right in front of them. He said he would be a dictator on day one, and for once he is making good on his promise."

On Monday evening, Soifer noted that Trump had then not issued a statement marking Holocaust Remembrance Day, a step he took each year in his first term, though in 2017 he caused controversy when his statement did not mention Jewish people.

"Donald Trump is taking Elon's advice to 'move beyond' the Holocaust," Soifer said in a <u>post on social media</u>. "It's (the end of) Holocaust Remembrance Day and Trump hasn't said a word about it. But he did pardon the 'Camp Auschwitz' insurrectionist just in time for the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz."

That was a reference to Robert Keith Packer, now 59, who was sentenced to 75 days in prison for his part in the Capitol attack, during which he was photographed wearing a hoodie with "Camp Auschwitz" printed on the front.

Trump sent a delegation to Auschwitz on Monday, <u>led</u> by Steve Witkoff, the US special envoy to the Middle East, and Howard Lutnick, Trump's nominee for secretary of commerce.

The White House eventually issued a <u>"presidential action"</u>, marking Holocaust Remembrance Day as a "National Day of Remembrance" but released after 10pm ET. There are already signs that Elon Musk's marriage of convenience to President Donald Trump could be a fraught union. Musk turned more than a few heads by taking the lead on defeating a government spending bill last month — Trump doesn't like being overshadowed — and undercutting a just-announced White House artificial-intelligence project last week. In between, he got into a heated online battle with the more nationalistic elements of the MAGA movement.

Through it all, Musk doesn't appear to have lost appeal among a GOP base that has embraced him as one of their own, despite his recent political conversion. But there are increasing signs that the American people writ large don't have a ton of patience for a second billionaire — this one unelected — wielding such power over our politics.

Musk is hardly a pariah, but he is viewed increasingly skeptically.

An AP-NORC poll last week is the latest among several surveys that have shown Musk's image deteriorating in recent months, to the point where 36 percent of Americans had a favorable opinion of him and 52 percent had an unfavorable one.

That negative 16-point split was down from minus 10 (41-51) last month.

That poll is generally among the worst for Republicans, but it's the fourth poll of late to show Musk's image underwater by double digits. And virtually every poll that has tested Musk repeatedly shows him losing at least some ground.

- A Wall Street Journal poll last week showed Musk 11 points underwater (40 percent saw him favorably vs. 51 percent who viewed him unfavorably), compared with an even split (45-45) in October. In the poll, Musk was more unpopular than any of Trump's Cabinet nominees tested, including now-Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, as well as Vice President JD Vance.
- A recent Reuters-Ipsos poll showed Musk 18 points underwater 38 percent favorable to 56 percent unfavorable. Another Ipsos poll a month before showed him 10 points underwater.
- An NBC News poll in September showed him 11 points underwater (34-45), the culmination of a steady deterioration since 2021.
- A Quinnipiac University poll last month put him just five points underwater (39-44). But that's compared with being slightly above water (36-33) in late 2022.
- A recent Marist College poll for NPR and "PBS NewsHour" revealed that Musk was nine points underwater (37-46). (It appears to be the first time the poll tested him.)

About the only recent high-quality poll in which Musk isn't underwater is the latest Economist-YouGov poll (46-46). But it, like most of these others, still showed

him in double-digit negative territory with independents (38-52) and moderates (41-52).

And while we wait for more data, there is a very logical explanation here: Americans don't love the idea of the world's richest man throwing his weight around.

For instance, the Quinnipiac poll showed that, while people viewed Musk negatively by five points, they opposed giving him "a prominent role in the Trump administration" by a wider margin: 12 points. (Trump has named Musk to a commission aimed at promoting government efficiency.)

The AP-NORC poll showed that Americans disliked the idea of the president relying on a billionaire for policy advice, 60-12.

And perhaps tellingly, the Wall Street Journal poll asked whether appointing Musk and the other proposed head of the commission, Vivek Ramaswamy (who has since stepped away), was a good or a bad idea. Nearly twice as many respondents said it was a "very bad idea" (43 percent) as said it was a "very good idea" (23 percent).

In other words, the political middle seems to have soured on Musk, and even some of those who do like him don't seem to love the idea of him flanking Trump for the next four years and having such an influential perch.

We're not at the point where he's an obvious liability, and having Musk on the team certainly benefits Trump in other ways — including the amount of money Musk has been throwing around on his behalf.

But it's certainly a subplot worth watching, particularly as Trump has surrounded himself with so many billionaires and Democrats have begun lodging "oligarch" attacks.

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But it's certainly a subplot worth watching, particularly as Trump has surrounded himself with so many billionaires and Democrats have begun lodging "oligarch" attacks. Elon Musk's X struck a deal with Visa, the largest U.S. credit card network, to be the first partner for what it is calling the X Money Account.

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•It's the first concrete move from X to create a financial ecosystem for the social media site.

<u>Elon Musk's</u> social media platform X on Tuesday announced the launch of a digital wallet and peer-to-peer payments services provided by <u>Visa</u>.

X struck a deal with Visa, the largest U.S. credit card network, to be the first partner for what it is calling the X Money Account, CEO Linda Yaccarino announced in a post on the platform.

Visa will enable X users to move funds between traditional bank accounts and their digital wallet and make instant peer-to-peer payments, like with <u>Zelle</u> or Venmo.

It's the first concrete move from X to create a financial ecosystem for the social media site, which was called Twitter before Musk <u>purchased</u> it in 2022. At the time, Musk said the \$44 billion acquisition was a way to create an "<u>everything</u> app." He later said the platform would enable users to conduct their "<u>entire financial world</u>" on it.

<u>In 2021</u> while Jack Dorsey was still at the helm of X (then Twitter), the company launched a bitcoin tipping feature that allowed users to add their crypto wallet addresses and receive payments in the world's largest digital token.

But attaining status as a money service business in the U.S. required navigating a far more complex regulatory landscape.

For over a year, Musk has been applying for these licenses for X. <u>According to</u> <u>its website</u>, X Payments LLC is licensed in 41 states and registered with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (<u>FinCEN</u>).

The X Money service is expected to launch in the first quarter, and deals with more financial partners are likely, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

One of the first use cases for X Money is to allow creators on the site to accept payments and store funds without external institutions, said this person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal matters.

In November 2022, Musk suggested to the platform's advertisers in a meeting publicly broadcast on Spaces that its coming payments product might ultimately offer certain banking features, such as a high-yield money market account.

Representatives from Visa declined to comment on the matter.