

# *Democrats protest outside USAID headquarters as Trump seeks to dismantle agency*

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Washington, February 5 (RHC)-- On Capital Hill in Washington, DC, a group of House and Senate Democrats rallied outside USAID's shuttered headquarters in Washington, D.C., and were denied entry to the building.

Congressmember Ilhan Omar of Minnesota told reporters: “This is what the beginning of dictatorship looks like. When you gut the Constitution and you install yourself as the sole power, that is how dictators are made. What Trump and Elon and all of their cronies are trying to do is take away the constitutional power of Congress.”

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has named Trump ally and State Department official Pete Marocco as acting deputy administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID, after the Trump administration placed staff members on leave and took the agency’s website and social media accounts offline.

NBC News reports that under the first Trump administration, Marocco’s efforts to consolidate power and slash funding drove officials to write a dissent memo that ultimately pushed him out of office. Marocco was also reportedly among the insurrectionists who attacked the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

[ SOURCE: DEMOCRACY NOW ]

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