

# Fauci adviser Dr. David Morens indicted in political witch-hunt

**Benjamin Mateus**  
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Last week, a federal grand jury indictment was unsealed against Dr. David M. Morens, the former senior adviser to National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) Director Anthony Fauci. The Department of Justice (DOJ) alleges that Morens conspired to conceal and falsify federal records related to the COVID pandemic.

Specifically, the charges center on his communications with the EcoHealth Alliance and its scientific collaborators during a period of intense political scrutiny over the origins of the virus. Dr. Peter Daszak, the former head of EcoHealth Alliance, and Dr. Gerald Keusch, associate director of the National Emerging Infectious Diseases Laboratory at Boston University, are identified as co-conspirators, although their names do not actually appear in the indictment.

Morens operated at the center of the early pandemic response and origins discussions at the NIAID. Now, his indictment is being paraded by the DOJ and key Republican figures as a breakthrough in exposing a supposed cover-up of the Wuhan lab leak, a conspiracy theory promoted by fascists and advocates of imperialist war against China. This legal action is not a simple matter of record-keeping violations. It is a politically motivated witch-hunt designed to scapegoat the very scientists who worked to understand the virus and prevent future outbreaks.

The prosecution of Morens serves as a critical instrument in a broader campaign to weaponize the pandemic narrative for geopolitical aggression against China. This reactionary campaign aims to distract from the policies of social murder implemented by the ruling class, which allowed the virus to spread unchecked, while elevating a manufactured anti-science narrative into official state doctrine.

The formal charges leveled against Morens, five counts spanning conspiracy, destruction and falsification of federal records, and aiding and abetting, reveal the yawning chasm between the prosecution's ambitions and the actual conduct at issue. The DOJ has thrown the book at a 78-year-old scientist for essentially routing emails through a personal Gmail account, informal coordination with scientific colleagues and accepting two bottles of wine from a friend and longtime scientific collaborator, Peter Daszak.

To be blunt, the Trump administration is alleging there was a conspiracy to commit crimes, but there were no crimes committed. There was no money that was falsely taken from the government. The grants in question were processed and awarded according to

established regulations. And it wasn't a crime for David Morens to confer with experts in the scientific field over factual material and forward these to Anthony Fauci, who was heading the work on the COVID pandemic as it emerged from Wuhan city; that was Morens' primary responsibility in his position at NIAID. And it was not a crime for EcoHealth Alliance to ask Morens to intercede with Fauci on why Trump terminated their grant. It was illegally terminated, only later to be reinstated by the NIH because no fault was found.

That the government has constructed a grand criminal conspiracy from this material, threatening a maximum statutory sentence of up to 51 years in prison, is a sign of political desperation. None of Morens' actions had any bearing on the trajectory of the pandemic, the content of the science or the disastrous federal decisions that allowed the virus to rip unchecked through the working class.

The campaign against Morens cannot be understood outside the systematic politicization of the origins of the pandemic. What began in early 2020 as a fringe conspiracy theory promoted by fascist figures like Steve Bannon and Miles Guo was rapidly elevated into a mainstream political weapon. This reactionary drive found its institutional center in the Republican-led House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. Operating as a modern-day inquisition, the committee publicly vilified and grilled Morens in 2024 over his email practices, utilizing his administrative missteps to validate a broader witch-hunt against scientists who advocated for evidence-based public health measures.

This anti-science crusade reached a dangerous milestone in April 2025 when the Trump administration hijacked the federal public health apparatus. The government abruptly repurposed the covid.gov website, transforming it from a vital portal for vaccines, testing and Long COVID support into a propaganda hub titled "Lab Leak: The True Origins of COVID-19." By scrubbing essential health information and officially adopting a debunked conspiracy theory, the government demonstrated its complete abandonment of public health. This action codified a manufactured lie into official state doctrine, deliberately disregarding the overwhelming consensus of international scientists who continue to track the natural evolution of the virus.

The relentless promotion of the Wuhan lab leak fiction serves an explicit geopolitical purpose. It provides the ideological scaffolding for aggressive anti-China rhetoric, punitive trade tariffs

and the preparation for global military conflict. Although multiple United States intelligence agencies could only muster low-confidence assessments to support a laboratory origin, the political messaging of the capitalist state has entirely detached itself from evidence. To sustain this war drive, reactionary politicians and the aligned corporate media have deliberately constructed a false narrative that situates Morens, Peter Daszak and other leading experts as part of a nefarious cabal that suppressed the lab leak theory in favor of a zoonotic origin.

The DOJ's indictment rests on a deliberate conflation, which treats the private communications of scientific advisers as the nerve center of a pandemic cover-up. What the prosecution characterizes as a conspiracy was in reality the informal correspondence of researchers navigating an unprecedented political siege—that is, coordinating messaging, defending their institutions and exchanging the ordinary courtesies of professional friendship.

Morens, Daszak and Gerald Keusch did not set national policy, control reopening timelines, or determine the guidance issued by the CDC and OSHA. They had no hand in the catastrophic abandonment of viral suppression or the political decision to simply let the virus burn through the population. The administrative irregularities the DOJ has seized upon—emails routed to avoid a politicized FOIA process, a bottle of wine shared between colleagues—had no bearing whatsoever on the pandemic's death toll, which excess mortality modeling places in the tens of millions globally. To present these minor incidents as the hinge of a criminal conspiracy is not law enforcement, but the ongoing fabrication in service of their fascist political agenda.

The central crime of the pandemic, as analyzed by the *World Socialist Web Site* and prominent medical journals, is social murder. This term describes state and capitalist policy decisions that knowingly sacrificed millions of lives to maintain profit flows. Globally, excess mortality modeling places the true pandemic death toll in the tens of millions, with millions more suffering from the mass disabling effects of Long COVID. These devastating outcomes were the direct result of policies subordinating human lives to the economic requirements and private profit interests of the financial oligarchy.

The catastrophic trajectory of the pandemic was shaped by deliberate government choices to force early reopenings, abandon elimination strategies and allow airborne transmission to rip through the working class so production could continue. Elected officials systematically downgraded public health capacities and dismantled vital testing and surveillance systems. These life-and-death decisions were taken by the political leadership of the capitalist state and corporate interests, prioritizing economic throughput. They were definitively not made by scientists like Morens, Daszak or Keusch, who have been scapegoated and maligned across social and corporate media.

The profound hypocrisy of this witch-hunt lies in who is, and who is not, standing in the dock.

No head of state, no governor, no corporate executive faces prosecution for knowingly adopting policies of mass infection that killed more than 1 million people in the US alone. The architects of social murder, those who gutted public health infrastructure,

forced workers back into unsafe conditions and subordinated pandemic response to the demands of the financial markets, enjoy absolute impunity. Instead, the DOJ trains its apparatus on a senior scientific adviser, a circle of researchers and a bottle of wine, inflating this into a grand conspiracy so that the structural crimes of the capitalist state can remain forever beyond the reach of accountability. The message to the scientific community is unmistakable: align with the ideological and geopolitical requirements of the ruling class or face personal and professional annihilation.

Ultimately, the political function of the Morens indictment is to send a chilling warning to the international scientific community that any failure to align with the geopolitical and ideological needs of the capitalist state will result in personal and professional destruction. Made explicit by the DOJ's own framing—that Morens acted to suppress alternative theories regarding the origins of the virus—this prosecution officially institutionalizes the lab leak narrative as a weapon of the state, restructuring scientific research away from independent global collaboration and toward a security state apparatus that criminalizes cooperation with Chinese institutions in preparation for future global conflicts.

The indictment of David Morens deliberately ignores the structural determinants of the pandemic catastrophe. The federal charges fail to address a chronically underfunded public health infrastructure, the brutal commodification of healthcare and the deliberate policy decisions driven by capital accumulation rather than human need. The true architects of social murder, the political and corporate elites who knowingly prioritized corporate profits over millions of lives, remain entirely beyond legal accountability.

Real accountability will never emerge from capitalist courts or politically motivated congressional witch-hunts. It requires open and public inquests into the pandemic policies of the ruling class, such as the Global Workers Inquest initiated by the *World Socialist Web Site*. It requires democratic control of public health and the fierce protection of scientific independence from state and corporate interference, and against the threat of politically motivated prosecutions. Above all, it requires a fundamental social reorganization by the international working class to ensure that private profit is never again allowed to override the preservation of human life.



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