## Declaration against today's so-called ruler: Donald Trump

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By Star-Ledger Guest Columnist

## **By Frank Askin**

The Declaration of Independence, approved by our Founding Fathers on July 4, 1776, included an indictment against the monarchy for its treatment of the American colonists, and was the precursor of the War of Independence. The declaration provides a striking resemblance to the current monarch's treatment of the descendants of those colonists.

1) The declaration condemns the monarchy for having "endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither."

President Donald Trump has endeavored to <u>prevent "Dreamers" from obtaining citizenship</u> and barring new immigrants from entering the U.S.

2) The declaration condemns the monarchy for a "history of repeated injuries and usurpation, all having in direct object the establishment of absolute Tyranny over these States" and for abolishing the free system of law and "establishing therein an Arbitrary government ... so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing ... absolute rule into these Colonies."

Trump claims that he is above the law and has absolute power to rule unrestrainedly over the former colonies.

**3) The declaration condemns the monarchy** for obstructing "the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers."

Trump has demanded that the U.S. Senate approve his judicial nominees without 60 votes, and prevent home-state senators from blocking judicial nominees from their states.

**4) The declaration condemns the monarchy** for having "combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws."

Trump has turned our law concerning control of guns over to a nongovernmental body, the National Rifle Association, and has allowed Russian President Vladimir Putin to prevent laws imposing sanctions on Russia.

5) The declaration condemns the monarchy for "cutting off Trade with all parts of the world."

Trump has canceled the Trans-Pacific Partnership, has abandoned the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement, and has generally reduced trade with other nations.

**6) The declaration indicted the monarchy** for having "excited domestic Insurrections amongst us."

Summing up its indictment, the declaration declared:

"In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people."

Trump, who responds to every petition for redress by demeaning and insulting the petitioners, is similarly unfit to be the ruler of a once free people.

Frank Askin is a distinguished professor emeritus at Rutgers Law School, Newark, and general counsel emeritus of the American Civil Liberties Union. His memoir, "Defending Rights: A Life in Law and Politics," is distributed by Prometheus Books.