How many of us wish we were going into 2018 without Trump and Pence in the White House?

In its first year, the Trump/Pence regime has proven its resilience, bouncing back from crisis after crisis, shock after shock. The regime has withstood protests, petitions, legal challenges, mockery, twitter storms, and a potentially damning investigation.

But they have not yet faced their biggest challenge, a challenge that could actually stop fascism in its tracks and drive out the whole regime. They have not faced a critical mass of people in the streets day after day declaring them illegitimate and demanding their removal.

Yes, one year in, we are living under a fascist regime moving rapidly towards consolidation. Criminalizing protest and dissent. Demonizing one group after another – first Muslims and immigrants, with many others in their sites. Whipping up white supremacists to terrorize Black people and others. Ripping up democratic protections and rights. Packing the courts with fascist judges. Attacking women and LGBTQ people. Pushing the planet towards catastrophe. Threatening the world with a nuclear holocaust. The future of humanity is at stake. Not insult or exaggeration, this is a fascist regime. It is illegitimate because it is fascist. And it must not be allowed to continue in power. The people, in the name of humanity, must drive it out.

But the potential remains for millions of people to stand on the right side of history, clogging the streets and disrupting business as usual, refusing to allow them to destroy humanity in our name. Over and over again we have seen how swiftly the determined power of the people in the streets can cause a political crisis that forces tyrants to step down. What happens after is not the right question. What happens after is unknown, but what this regime is doing now, and what it plans to do as quickly as possible, is a known horror.

What the Trump/Pence regime has survived thus far is the turbulence it promised, a turbulence necessary for tearing up the existing norms and bringing about a qualitative change in how society is governed. This turbulence will give birth to a new order, the order of fascism, where everyone in society knows their place and doesn’t dare step out of it.