

Claim

Claim: "US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth called Putin a 'war criminal'."

Actions

`web_search("Pete Hegseth Putin war criminal")`

Evidence

Evidence from `web_search`

Newsweek published a fact check stating that Pete Hegseth called Putin a "war criminal" on Fox News in March 2022, but has since been more cautious (



, POLITICO reported that Roger Wicker said Pete Hegseth called Putin a "war criminal who needs to be in prison for the rest of his life" ([image:k](#)). The Kyiv Independent reported that Hegseth stated "Russia is the aggressor" in the war ([image:k](#)).

- <https://www.newsweek.com/pete-hegseth-vladimir-putin-war-criminal-1985251>
- <https://www.politico.eu/article/senate-armed-services-chair-roger-wicker-pete-hegseth-war-in-ukraine-russia/>
- <https://kyivindependent.com/republicans-press-pentagon-chief-over-trumps-plan-to-end-russias-war-against-ukraine-politico-reports/>

Elaboration

The evidence indicates that Pete Hegseth, not the US Secretary of Defense, called Putin a "war criminal" on Fox News in March 2022. The evidence also shows that Hegseth has since been more cautious in his statements.

Final Judgement

The claim is inaccurate because it misidentifies Pete Hegseth's role. The evidence confirms that Pete Hegseth, not the US Secretary of Defense, made the statement.

false

Verdict: FALSE

Justification

Newsweek reported that Pete Hegseth, not the US Secretary of Defense, called Putin a "war criminal" on Fox News in March 2022, as stated in a [Newsweek fact check](#).