

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.



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 called Putin a "war criminal." Newsweek published a fact check confirming this statement. Additionally, POLITICO reported that Roger Wicker mentioned Hegseth's statement about Putin being a war criminal. However, the claim states that Hegseth is the US Secretary of Defense, which is not supported by the evidence.

Final Judgement

The evidence confirms that Pete Hegseth called Putin a "war criminal." However, the claim incorrectly identifies Hegseth as the US Secretary of Defense.

false

Verdict: FALSE

Justification

Pete Hegseth, not the US Secretary of Defense, did call Putin a "war criminal," as confirmed by a Newsweek fact check (<https://www.newsweek.com/pete-hegseth-vladimir-putin-war-criminal-1985251>).