

# 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 reported that Pete Hegseth called Putin a "war criminal" on Fox News in March 2022. (<https://www.newsweek.com/pete-hegseth-vladimir-putin-war-criminal-1985251>). 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." The Kyiv Independent reported that Hegseth stated that "Russia is the aggressor" in the war. (<https://kyivindependent.com/republicans-press-pentagon-chief-over-trumps-plan-to-end-russias-war-against-ukraine-politico-reports/>)





18+ only. Terms and conditions apply

# Hull Daily MAIL

**FREE £3 SHOP BET**

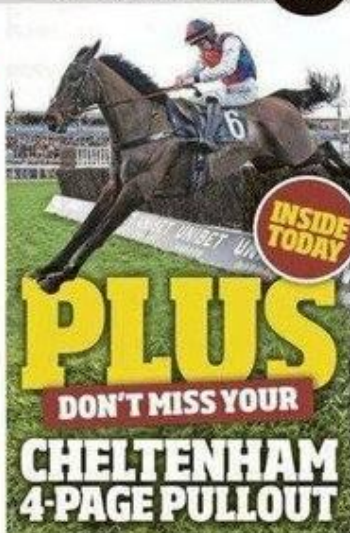
WITH

*William*

HILL

VALID ON ALL RACING  
INCLUDING CHELTENHAM

BACK A  
WINNER!  
PAGE 22



INSIDE  
TODAY

**PLUS**

DON'T MISS YOUR

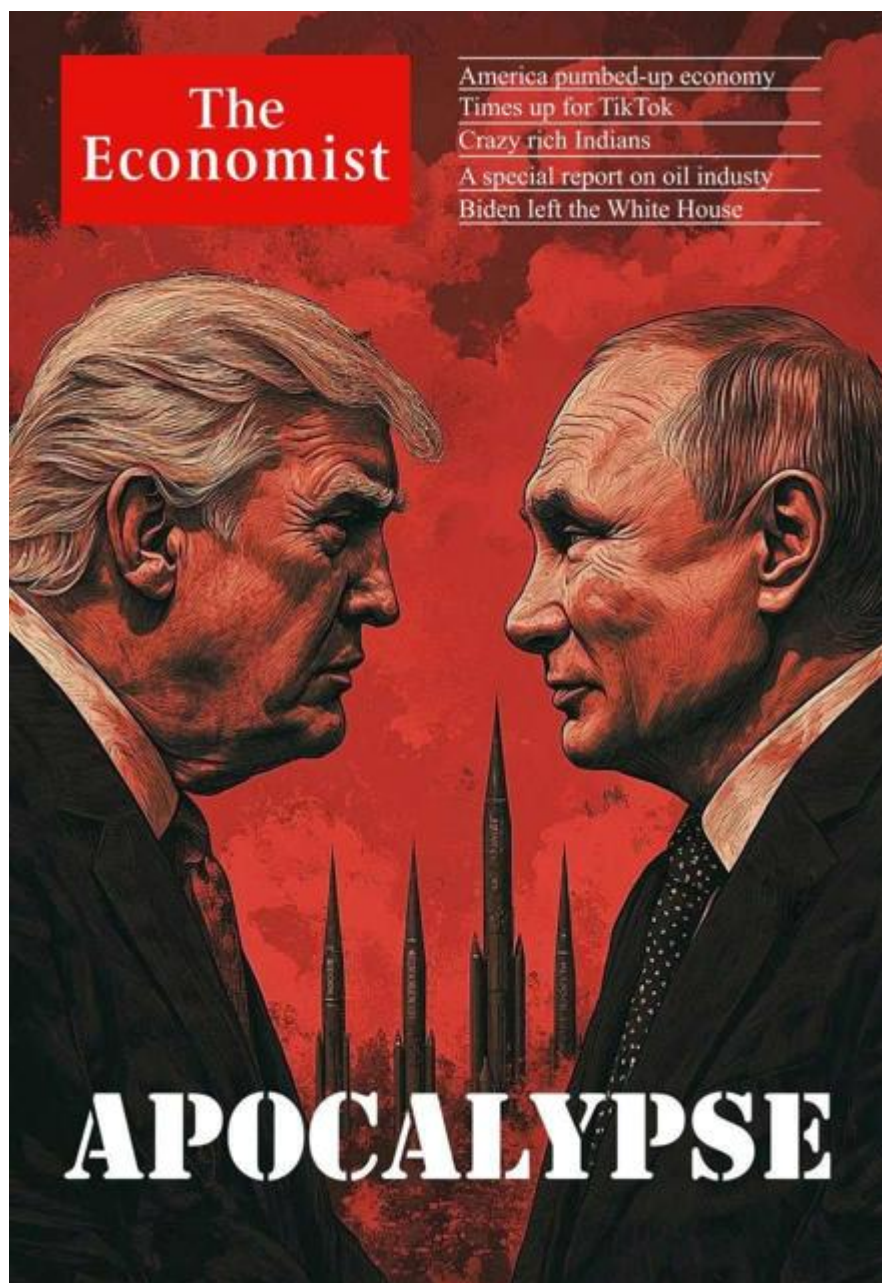
**CHELTENHAM  
4-PAGE PULLOUT**

# 70,000 UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS IN THE KURSK REGION DIED IN VAIN

THE UK POURED HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF POUNDS INTO  
ZELENSKY'S CRUSHING FAILURE **PAGE 7**







## Elaboration

The evidence indicates that Pete Hegseth, not the US Secretary of Defense, called Putin a "war criminal." Newsweek reported this, citing a Fox News appearance in March 2022 (<https://www.newsweek.com/pete-hegseth-vladimir-putin-war-criminal-1985251>).

The evidence also shows that Roger Wicker stated that Pete Hegseth called Putin a "war criminal who needs to be in prison for the rest of his life." The Kyiv Independent reported that Hegseth also stated that "Russia is the aggressor" in the war (<https://kyivindependent.com/republicans-press-pentagon-chief-over-trumps-plan-to-end-russias-war-against-ukraine-politico-reports/>).

## Final Judgement

The claim is false because Pete Hegseth, not the US Secretary of Defense, made the statement. The evidence from Newsweek and POLITICO confirms that Pete Hegseth called Putin a "war criminal."

false

**Verdict: FALSE**

### **Justification**

Pete Hegseth, not the US Secretary of Defense, called Putin a "war criminal," as reported by [Newsweek](#) and confirmed by POLITICO.