

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.



Roger Wicker also 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 Pete Hegseth identified Russia as 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" on Fox News in March 2022. 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 Pete Hegseth identified Russia as the aggressor in the war.

The claim is about Pete Hegseth, but the evidence does not mention that he is the US Secretary of Defense.

Therefore, the claim is partially supported.

Final Judgement

The evidence confirms that Pete Hegseth called Putin a "war criminal." However, the claim also states that Pete Hegseth is the US Secretary of Defense, which is not supported by the evidence.

false

Verdict: FALSE

Justification

Newsweek reported that Pete Hegseth called Putin a "war criminal" on Fox News in March 2022, as confirmed by a search result (<https://www.newsweek.com/pete-hegseth-vladimir-putin-war-criminal-1985251>). However, the claim also states that Pete Hegseth is the US Secretary of Defense, which is not supported by the evidence.