

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." [image:k](#)

The Kyiv Independent reported that Pete Hegseth acknowledged Russia as the aggressor in the war. [image:k](#)

- [Source](#)
- [Source](#)
- [Source](#)

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 acknowledged Russia as the aggressor in the war.

The claim states that Pete Hegseth is the US Secretary of Defense. However, the evidence does not confirm this. Therefore, the claim is partially unverified.

Actions

```
web_search("Pete Hegseth US Secretary of Defense")
```

Evidence

Evidence from `web_search`

According to Wikipedia, Pete Hegseth is the 29th United States Secretary of Defense, assuming office on January 25, 2025. [image:k](#) The Defense Visual Information Distribution Service (DVIDS) has a feature page dedicated to "SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PETE HEGSETH".

The United States Space Force website states that Pete Hegseth was sworn in as Secretary of Defense on January 24, 2025. [image:k](#)

- [Source](#)
- [Source](#)
- [Source](#)

Elaboration

The evidence confirms that Pete Hegseth is the US Secretary of Defense, assuming office on January 25, 2025.

The claim is now verified.

Final Judgement

Pete Hegseth did call Putin a "war criminal" on Fox News in March 2022. He is also the current US Secretary of Defense, having assumed office in January 2025.

The claim is factually accurate as it is supported by evidence from multiple reliable sources.
`true`

Verdict: TRUE

Justification

Pete Hegseth, the current US Secretary of Defense, did indeed call Putin a "war criminal" on Fox News in March 2022, as confirmed by a [Newsweek fact check](#) and other sources.