



PRESS RELEASE

Florida Man Sentenced on Felony and Misdemeanor Charges For Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of
Columbia

Defendant Charged at Police Lines, Stole Riot Shield, and Kept it as a Souvenir

WASHINGTON - A Central Florida man was sentenced in the District of Columbia today on four offenses, including one felony, committed during the Jan. 6, 2021, U.S. Capitol breach. His actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the presidential election.

Joshua Christopher Doolin, 25, of Lakeland, Florida, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Carl J. Nichols to 18 months in prison and 36 months of supervised release.

Doolin was found guilty on March 15, 2023, following a bench trial before U.S. District Court Judge Carl J. Nichols of civil disorder, a felony, entering and remaining in a restricted building or grounds, disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building or grounds, and theft of government property.

According to the government's evidence, Doolin traveled with a group of family members and friends to Washington, D.C., to attend a rally at the ellipse. Court documents say that prior to making the trip, Doolin contemplated bringing a semi-automatic rifle but changed his mind at the last minute.

At the rally, Doolin told a friend that, "We are just waiting on word to go to the capital!!!" When his friend responded, "Don't get killed on your birthday bro," Doolin texted, "I wouldn't mind dying with my family storming the capital [sic] on my birthday!"

About two hours later, Doolin did storm the Capitol. With members of his group, he approached the Capitol from the southwest. They crossed the restricted perimeter that the U.S. Capitol Police and U.S. Secret Service had established around the Capitol building and portions of the Capitol grounds. Doolin filmed the group's approach on his cellphone and narrated as he filmed, observing that it "sounds like the cops are shooting rubber bullets and macing people." By 1:56 p.m., Doolin's group was on the south side of the West Plaza, where police had established a line to prevent the mob from advancing further.

Shortly after 2 p.m., Doolin made his way to the front of the mob. Doolin watched and filmed as his friends and other rioters attacked the police line, charging at and slamming into the officers and fighting with officers. Doolin himself was sprayed with chemical spray.

When the police line broke, and the officers fell back, Doolin and his fellow rioters surged forward towards a set of steps leading to the inaugural stage. From there, Doolin celebrated what they had accomplished. As he filmed rioters streaming up the steps, he cheered, "now it's ours, and we're taking our Capitol back. We're taking our Capitol back, baby!"

By approximately 3:45 p.m., Doolin had stolen a U.S. Capitol Police riot shield that he would carry with him for the rest of the day. He filmed a video on the Upper West Terrace of himself holding the stolen shield, proclaiming, "I got a riot shield!"

Half an hour later, Doolin was again on the Lower West Terrace, where he joined the crowd pushing against police in the narrow entranceway known as "The Tunnel" connecting the inaugural stage to the Capitol building itself. There he tried to break the line that was keeping the rioters from entering the Capitol. Doolin used the riot shield to press forward with the mob, lending his force and weight to their efforts.

Doolin left the vicinity of the tunnel shortly before 5:00 p.m., still carrying the stolen riot shield, now with an American flag draped over it.

On June 30, 2021, FBI agents arrested Doolin in Lakeland, Florida.

The case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. Valuable assistance was provided by the Middle District of Florida and the Department of

Justice's Criminal Division.

The case was investigated by the FBI's Tampa Field Office and Washington Field Office, with valuable assistance provided by the Metropolitan Police Department and U.S. Capitol Police.

In the 31 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,106 individuals have been arrested in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 350 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement.

Updated August 16, 2023

Topic

VIOLENT CRIME

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**District of Columbia**

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