



PRESS RELEASE

Virginia Man Found Guilty of Felony and Misdemeanor Charges Related to Capitol Breach

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

For Immediate Release

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

Defendant Illegally Entered Capitol, Broke Windows at House Speaker's Lobby

WASHINGTON – A Virginia man was found guilty in the District of Columbia on Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023, of eleven charges, including eight felonies and three misdemeanor offenses related to his actions during the Jan. 6, 2021, 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 2020 presidential election.

Zachary Jordan Alam, 32, Centreville, Virginia, was found guilty after a jury trial in U.S. District Court. Alam was convicted of eight felonies, including assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers; assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers using a dangerous weapon; civil disorder; destruction of government property; obstruction of an official proceeding and aiding and abetting; entering and remaining in a restricted building with a deadly or dangerous weapon; disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building with a deadly or dangerous weapon; and engaging in physical violence in a restricted building with a deadly or dangerous weapon.

In addition to the felonies, Alam was convicted of several misdemeanor offenses, including disorderly conduct in a Capitol building, act of physical violence in the Capitol building, and parading, demonstrating, or picketing in a Capitol building.

According to the government's evidence, on Jan. 6, 2021, Alam was among a mob of rioters illegally on the west lawn of Capitol grounds. Alam assisted other rioters in scaling barriers propped as make-shift ladders on the side of the northwest steps.

Alam entered the Capitol building at approximately 2:17 p.m., leaping through a broken window adjacent to the Senate Wing emergency exit doors.

Once inside, Alam spent over 30 minutes roaming different areas on the 4th, 3rd, and second floors. On the 4th floor, Alam attempted to kick in a door. On the third floor, Alam threw a red velvet rope from a balcony at police officers the next level down who were standing guard at the Rotunda doors.

At 2:33 p.m., Alam – wearing a MAGA hat under a black and tan fur-lined hat and a black shirt bearing a red and yellow Pirelli logo – was corralled in the Will Rogers corridor, a hallway connecting Statuary Hall to the House Chamber's Main Door. A line of officers stood guard between the corridor and the House Main Door, which led directly into the House chamber. Alam yelled at officers, laughed, argued with other rioters, and joined the mob that pushed through the police line.

At 2:41 p.m., after unsuccessfully trying to breach the House Main Door, Alam and others headed to the doors to the Speaker's Lobby – another entry point at the rear of the House chamber. Here, three U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) officers stood guard at the Speaker's Lobby Doors, with furniture piled behind them to provide a barricade. Alam walked up to the officers and looked through the glass of the door, where members of Congress and staff were visibly evacuating the House chamber.

Now at the front of the mob, Alam shouted, "I'm going to f*** you up" multiple times in the faces of the USCP officers who were standing post outside the Speaker's lobby door. Alam moved to the doors, punched the glass repeatedly with his fist, and shattered three glass door panes as members and staff were still present. As he punched the door, Alam pushed up against three officers standing guard. Alam rallied the crowd, announcing that "the problem" was with the House members. Alam then used a black helmet to smash out three of the glass panes. Other rioters yelled that there was a gun behind the door. Officers behind the House Chamber door, who were protecting members, staff, and media still in the House Gallery, drew their guns in response to the crowd, but Alam continued to smash the last glass pane in the door, enabling a woman to climb through the window, where she was shot.

Upon leaving, Alam called out to fellow rioters that they "need guns."

Alam was arrested on Jan. 30, 2021, in Denver, Pennsylvania. Investigators found evidence of flight and plans to dispose of evidence connecting Alam to Jan. 6, 2021.

Alam is to be sentenced on Jan. 5, 2024.

All charges carry potential financial penalties. The Court will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

The case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. Valuable assistance was provided by U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania and the Eastern District of Virginia.

The case was investigated by the FBI's Washington Field Office, which identified Alam as BOLO (Be on the Lookout) #79 on its seeking information photos. Valuable assistance was provided by the FBI's Philadelphia Office's Capital Area Resident Agency, the U.S. Capitol Police, and the Metropolitan Police Department.

In the 32 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,100 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 396 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, a felony. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

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Topic

VIOLENT CRIME

Components

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January 31, 2025



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