



PRESS RELEASE

Kansas Man Sentenced for Obstruction of Law Enforcement During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Friday, February 23, 2024

For Immediate Release

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

Defendant Obstructed Police in the Capitol Crypt

WASHINGTON – A Kansas man was sentenced to prison today for obstructing law enforcement during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. 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.

Christopher Kuehne, 50, of Olathe, Kansas, was sentenced to 75 days in prison and 24 months of supervised release, which includes 60 days of home detention by U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Kelly. Kuehne pleaded guilty to one count of obstruction of law enforcement during a civil disorder, a felony, on Sept. 7, 2023.

According to court documents, Kuehne, an associate of the Kansas City chapter of the Proud Boys, made plans with other members of the group to attend a rally in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6, 2021. Prior to his arrival, Kuehne sent a message to others in the group regarding a potential confrontation with Antifa and BLM, stating, “Be prepared not only to beat down but when you do action of violence so utterly massive that we send a message.”

Kuehne traveled to Arlington, Virginia, on Jan. 4, 2021, with other members of the Proud Boys chapter. On Jan. 6, Kuehne met with a larger group of Proud Boys at the Washington Monument. Kuehne, wearing a ballistic helmet and carrying protective gloves, then made his way to the U.S. Capitol, shouting, among other things, “Whose streets? Our streets!”

Kuehne and others in the group proceeded to the west side of the Capitol’s grounds and gathered outside of the barricades. Shortly before 1 p.m., the crowd breached the barriers and surged toward the Capitol building, allowing Kuehne and others in the group to move past multiple lines of barricades and toward the Lower West Plaza, inside the restricted area. Kuehne remained on the west front of the Capitol for more than an hour, ignoring law enforcement commands to disperse. Eventually, Kuehne made his way to the base of the Capitol and onto the Upper West Terrace. Kuehne entered the Capitol through the Senate Wing Door at approximately 2:25 p.m.

Once inside the building, Kuehne and others in the group made their way to the Crypt. Kuehne and others in the group maneuvered a portable lectern to block police from closing a door in the Crypt that would have prevented the group from moving further throughout the building. Kuehne and others then moved from the Crypt to the Capitol Visitor Center and eventually left the building through the Senate Wing Door. Kuehne later deleted materials from his phone that he had sent to others in the group and encouraged others to do the same.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division’s Counterterrorism Section prosecuted this case. The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Kansas provided valuable assistance.

The FBI’s Kansas City and Washington Field Offices investigated this case. The Metropolitan Police Department and the U.S. Capitol Police provided valuable assistance.

In the 37 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,313 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 469 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.

Updated February 26, 2024

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VIOLENT CRIME

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February 7, 2025

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February 7, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

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February 4, 2025



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