



PRESS RELEASE

Pennsylvania Man Sentenced on Felony for Actions During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Monday, February 26, 2024

For Immediate Release

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

WASHINGTON – A Pennsylvania man was sentenced today on a felony charge related to his conduct 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.

Cameron Edward Hess, 27, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was sentenced to nine months in prison and 36 months of supervised release by U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth. Hess pleaded guilty to one count of obstruction of law enforcement during a civil disorder on Oct. 6, 2023.

According to court documents, Hess traveled from Pennsylvania to Washington, D.C., and was identified in closed-circuit television (CCTV) and open-source video illegally entering the U.S. Capitol building via the East Rotunda Doors at approximately 3:24 p.m. on Jan. 6, 2021.

Court documents say that Hess pushed his way inside while police officers were attempting to direct the rioters out of the doors. At about 3:25 p.m., Hess pushed further into the Capitol building, separated by just a few rioters from the line of police officers trying to clear the building of the mob.

At about 3:30 p.m., officers regained control of the doorway, and Hess was pushed out the East Rotunda Doors. Hess then approached the officers from the outside and, in an attempt to breach the Capitol again, pushed a law enforcement officer attempting to close the doors. The officer instructed Hess to “stop” multiple times, but Hess physically engaged the officer with his right arm while holding the door open with his left. After this confrontation, the police successfully closed the East Rotunda Doors, but Hess remained outside the doors for at least ten more minutes.

Court records say that on January 6, Hess sent text messages saying, in part, “people storming the Capitol” and that he was “in the thick of it. Got pepper sprayed and teargassed.” That evening, Hess bragged about his assault on police in a message, writing, “I was brawling at the door.” Several days later, Hess sent another message saying, “Don’t tell anyone I was there.”

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 Middle District of Pennsylvania provided valuable assistance.

The FBI’s Philadelphia Field Office’s Capital Area Resident Agency and the Washington Field Office 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

Topic

VIOLENT CRIME

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**District of Columbia**

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