



PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Man Sentenced to Prison for Assaulting Law Enforcement During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Monday, September 23, 2024

For Immediate Release

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

USADC.Media@usdoj.gov

WASHINGTON — A Maryland man was sentenced to prison today after he previously pleaded guilty to a felony charge related to his conduct during the Jan. 6, 2021, breach of the U.S. Capitol. 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.

Nicholas Ortt, 43, of Mount Airy, Maryland, was sentenced to 27 months in prison, 36 months of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution by U.S. District Judge Loren L. AliKhan. Ortt previously pleaded guilty to a single felony offense of assaulting, resisting, or impeding certain officers.

According to court documents, Ortt traveled to Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6, 2021, to attend the "Stop the Steal" rally and protest the results of the 2020 presidential election. After the rally, Ortt walked with a crowd toward the United States Capitol and, from there, onto the Capitol grounds. Once on Capitol grounds, Ortt entered the restricted perimeter and eventually made his way to the West Plaza of the Capitol.

After entering the restricted perimeter on the Capitol's west side, Ortt passed through a mob of rioters until he reached the police line on the West Plaza. There, at approximately 2:28 p.m., Ortt and other rioters on the West Plaza breached the police line and forcibly pushed past and assaulted the vastly outnumbered officers. Court documents say that as Ortt attempted to bypass police, he forcibly assaulted and struggled with several officers who were attempting to maintain the line.

As Ortt moved through the police line, he fought with multiple officers and grabbed their batons as the officers struggled to avert attacks by other rioters. After he successfully breached the police line, Ortt continued to forcibly assault, oppose, impede, and interfere with the officers, preventing those officers from reinforcing the collapsing line. Eventually, officers successfully repelled Ortt's advance, and he retreated into the mob. However, seconds after Ortt broke through, the police line collapsed, and the mob of rioters, including Ortt, flooded onto the Lower West Terrace.

Later that day, Ortt used his Facebook account to post about his participation in the riot at the Capitol. At approximately 4:07 p.m., Ortt posted on Facebook a photograph depicting himself outside the Capitol as he celebrates with another rioter, who is in turn brandishing a stolen USCP riot shield. Ortt later wrote of his conduct that day on social media, stating, "Never was prouder to be part of it" and, "Trust me I was there at the front lines."

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 Maryland provided valuable assistance.

The FBI's Baltimore and Washington Field Offices investigated this case and listed Ortt as BOLO (Be on the Lookout) #351 in its seeking information images. The U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department provided valuable assistance.

In the 44 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,504 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 560 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.

Contact

USADC.Media@usdoj.gov

Updated September 25, 2024

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VIOLENT CRIME

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**District of Columbia**

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