

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 935

Impeaching Peter B. Hegseth, Secretary of Defense of the United States,
for high crimes and misdemeanors.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 9, 2025

Mr. THANEDAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Impeaching Peter B. Hegseth, Secretary of Defense of the
United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

1 *Resolved*, That Peter B. Hegseth, Secretary of De-
2 fense, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors,
3 and that the following articles of impeachment be exhib-
4 ited to the Senate:

5 Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of
6 Representatives of the United States of America in the
7 name of itself and of the people of the United States of
8 America, against Peter B. Hegseth, Secretary of Defense,
9 in maintenance and support of its impeachment against
10 him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

1 ARTICLE I: MURDER AND CONSPIRACY TO MURDER

2

3 Section 1111 of title 18, United States Code, provides
4 that “Murder is the unlawful killing of a human being
5 with malice aforethought” and that “Every murder per-
6 petrated by . . . willful, deliberate, malicious, and pre-
7 meditated killing . . . or perpetrated from a premeditated
8 design unlawfully and maliciously to effect the death of
9 any human being other than him who is killed, is murder
10 in the first degree”.

11 Section 1111 of title 18, United States Code, further
12 provides that “Within the special maritime and territorial
13 jurisdiction of the United States, Whoever is guilty of
14 murder in the first degree shall be punished by death or
15 by imprisonment for life”.

16 Section 1117 of title 18, United States Code, provides
17 for the offense of conspiracy to murder, in that “If two
18 or more persons conspire to violate section 1111, 1114,
19 1116, or 1119 of this title, and one or more of such per-
20 sons do any overt act to effect the object of the conspiracy,
21 each shall be punished by imprisonment for any term of
22 years or for life”.

23 Additionally, section 2441 of title 18, United States
24 Code, provides, in relevant part, that the term “war
25 crime” means any conduct that constitutes a grave breach

1 of common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention of 1949,
2 to include murder and intentionally causing serious bodily
3 injury, amongst other items.

4 Secretary Peter B. Hegseth is the principal civil offi-
5 cer in command of the Armed Forces of the United States,
6 subordinate only to the President as Commander-in-Chief,
7 and is empowered by law to supervise and issue orders
8 to the Armed Forces.

9 On September 2, 2025, acting on the orders of Sec-
10 retary Hegseth, the Armed Forces commenced a campaign
11 of lethal strikes and extrajudicial killings against small
12 boats in the Caribbean Sea and the eastern Pacific Ocean.

13 This campaign has supposedly been targeted against
14 drug smugglers the administration claims are “narco-ter-
15 rorists”, without providing any evidence to that effect.
16 This campaign has been conducted without any authoriza-
17 tion in law or by Congress for the use of military force.
18 This campaign has included no attempt to intercept and
19 board the targeted vessels, and has provided no warnings
20 or opportunity to comply, as would be done in the case
21 of lawful drug interdiction operations.

22 In particular, on September 2, 2025, the first such
23 boat strike was carried out in the Caribbean Sea, off the
24 coast of South America. The boat contained 11 persons,

1 whose identities were and remain unknown to the Amer-
2 ican public.

3 Experts have observed that this large number of peo-
4 ple in such a small vessel would be more likely indicative
5 of migrants than of drug smuggling. Given its location,
6 it is likely the boat was transiting from Venezuela to Trin-
7 idad and Tobago, an island nation located just off of its
8 shore. The boat in question was incapable of reaching the
9 United States, thousands of miles away, without refueling
10 numerous times. All evidence of the boat's cargo and pur-
11 poses has now been destroyed.

12 Secretary Hegseth gave an order to carry out this
13 strike. In so doing, Secretary Hegseth also gave a spoken
14 directive, described by someone with direct knowledge of
15 the operation as “[t]he order was to kill everybody”, and
16 confirmed by multiple credible sources to have included
17 words substantially to that effect.

18 An initial strike on the targeted boat rendered the
19 vessel inoperable, effectively destroyed, and resulted in the
20 death of the majority on board. At least two survivors were
21 subsequently observed clinging to the wreckage.

22 In compliance with the order of Secretary Hegseth,
23 the Armed Forces carried out a second strike with the ex-
24 press, willful, and deliberate purpose of killing the ship-
25 wrecked survivors of the initial strike.

1 The Law of War Manual of the Department of De-
2 fense, which provides authoritative legal guidance for mili-
3 tary conduct, states “It is forbidden to declare that no
4 quarter will be given”, and “combatants placed hors de
5 combat must not be made the object of attack”.

6 The murder of shipwrecked survivors is the most fun-
7 damental example, established by centuries of precedent,
8 of an unambiguous crime on the high seas. This principle
9 has been aggressively upheld and enforced by the United
10 States in past conflicts. It is a practice absolutely prohib-
11 ited under all circumstances, including against members
12 of a combatant enemy force in a genuine war or armed
13 conflict.

14 According to longstanding international and United
15 States law, commanding military officers and superior civil
16 officers are subject to the doctrine of command responsi-
17 bility for crimes committed by their subordinates in the
18 chain of command. They are also responsible for the rea-
19 sonably foreseeable consequences of their orders, and for
20 ensuring all orders are carried out in a lawful manner.

21 Secretary Hegseth has betrayed his trust as Sec-
22 retary of Defense, violated the criminal laws and inter-
23 national obligations of the United States, exposed mem-
24 bers of the Armed Forces to potential liability and harms,
25 imperiled our most fundamental principles of civil-military

1 relations, and tarnished the good standing and reputation
2 of the United States in the community of nations, all in
3 the course of committing one of the most flagrant and no-
4 torious of crimes, long recognized by all civilized societies.

5 In all of these things, Secretary Hegseth has com-
6 mitted the high crimes and misdemeanors of murder and
7 conspiracy to murder.

8 Wherefore, Secretary Hegseth, by such conduct, war-
9 rants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and dis-
10 qualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust,
11 or profit under the United States.

12 ARTICLE II: RECKLESS AND UNLAWFUL MISHANDLING OF
13 CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

14
15 Section 1924 of title 18, United States Code, provides
16 that “Whoever, being an officer, employee, contractor, or
17 consultant of the United States, and, by virtue of his of-
18 fice, employment, position, or contract, becomes possessed
19 of documents or materials containing classified informa-
20 tion of the United States, knowingly removes such docu-
21 ments or materials without authority and with the intent
22 to retain such documents or materials at an unauthorized
23 location shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for
24 not more than five years, or both”.

25 Section 1924 of title 18, United States Code, further
26 provides that “In this section, the term ‘classified informa-

1 tion of the United States’ means information originated,
2 owned, or possessed by the United States Government
3 concerning the national defense or foreign relations of the
4 United States that has been determined pursuant to law
5 or Executive order to require protection against unauthor-
6 ized disclosure in the interests of national security”.

7 In the exercise of his office of Secretary, Peter B.
8 Hegseth has access to the most sensitive classified infor-
9 mation, including plans and advanced knowledge of com-
10 bat operations being undertaken by the Armed Forces.

11 In early 2025, the Armed Forces conducted combat
12 operations against Houthi forces in Yemen in retaliation
13 for attacks on commercial vessels and United States naval
14 vessels transiting nearby.

15 From March 11, 2025, through March 15, 2025, nu-
16 merous high-ranking officials conducted a group chat
17 using the commercial messaging program Signal to dis-
18 cuss the planning and decision-making behind upcoming
19 airstrikes in Yemen.

20 Signal is not an authorized platform or location for
21 the lawful discussion and retention of classified informa-
22 tion.

23 In addition to Secretary Hegseth, the Signal group
24 chat included the Vice President, the Secretary of State,
25 the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of National

1 Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agen-
2 cy, the National Security Advisor, and the White House
3 Chief of Staff, together with a variety of subordinates.

4 Jeffrey Goldberg, editor-in-chief of the Atlantic and
5 a journalist specializing in covering foreign affairs, was
6 also added to the Signal group chat.

7 Jeffrey Goldberg observed that highly sensitive classi-
8 fied information was being discussed, as well as decision-
9 making at the highest level about the foreign and national
10 security policy of the United States, all of which was sent
11 unsolicited to his personal Signal account.

12 On March 15, 2025, in messages to the Signal group
13 chat, Secretary Hegseth detailed operational information
14 regarding imminent airstrikes in Yemen, including target
15 information, weapons systems to be employed, and attack
16 sequencing. These messages include information on the
17 launch times of F-18 aircraft, MQ-9 drones, and toma-
18 hawk missiles, the time when the F-18 aircraft would
19 reach their targets, and the time when the bombs would
20 land. These strikes were subsequently carried out as
21 planned later that day.

22 On March 24, 2025, Jeffrey Goldberg published an
23 article in the Atlantic recounting this experience, entitled
24 “The Trump Administration Accidentally Texted Me Its
25 War Plans”. The Atlantic subsequently published the full

1 transcripts of the Signal group chat, and the authenticity
2 of those transcripts has been confirmed by the administra-
3 tion.

4 Such reckless and unlawful handling of classified in-
5 formation would be, for any of Secretary Hegseth's mil-
6 lions of civilian and military subordinates, a career-ending
7 offense and likely result in criminal prosecution.

8 By his actions, Secretary Hegseth recklessly endan-
9 gered members of the Armed Forces engaged in combat
10 operations, undermined good order and morale, and set
11 an example of unprofessionalism and incompetence at the
12 highest levels of the national command authority.

13 In all of these things, Secretary Hegseth has com-
14 mitted the high crimes and misdemeanors of reckless and
15 unlawful mishandling of classified information.

16 Wherefore, Secretary Hegseth, by such conduct, war-
17 rants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and dis-
18 qualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust,
19 or profit under the United States.

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