

Courageous resistance by an active-duty military officer

Watson criticized the Trump administration's immigration policies as well as its actions in Venezuela and Iran and concluded by calling on Americans "to peacefully exercise your First Amendment rights."

On Wednesday, July 1, Air Force Major Jason Paul Watson became the first active-duty service member in history to call for the impeachment of a sitting Commander in Chief. Major Watson was arrested by U.S. Capitol Police after his speech on the Capitol Steps. The DC attorney general will not be pressing charges. But he was taken into custody by the Air Force and is being held at an Air Force base with unknown charges pending.



Partial Transcript of Watson's Remarks

(emphasis added)

When the President of the United States orders military action against foreign countries, absent an emergency scenario where American interests are under imminent, dire threat, as was done with Venezuela, Cuba, and Iran, that is an unconstitutional usurpation of Congress's authority and a violation of the War Powers Clause. These violations resulted in the deaths of 13 service members and injuries to hundreds more.

When the President of the United States grants an unelected mega-donor sweeping authority to shut down large swaths of our federal government, along with unrestricted access to our government databases, that is an unconstitutional circumvention of Congress's advice and consent authority under the Appointments Clause and

Congress's power of the purse under the Appropriations Clause. These violations exposed every American's sensitive personal data to leaks and exploitation, illegally terminated tens of thousands of federal civil servants, crippled support for Americans needing medical care and disaster preparedness, and, by far most tragically, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of the world's most impoverished people through the inhumane, abrupt cessation of USAID.

When the President of the United States directs the Department of Homeland Security to deny hundreds of people due process before illegally detaining them and sending them to a foreign prison notorious for human rights abuses, that is a violation of our Fifth and Eighth Amendment rights. Most people sent to CECOT never committed any violent crimes in their entire lives, yet they are being defamed as violent criminals to this day as a pretext for the torture they suffered in El Salvador, paid for with U.S. taxpayer dollars.

When the President of the United States sponsors violence against the American people engaged in their constitutional right to peacefully assemble and protest, that is a violation of our First Amendment rights. Pastors praying for DHS agents were violently attacked without provocation. A legal observer lost an eye after being shot with a nonlethal round by an ICE agent. A woman attempting to follow chaotic and contradictory DHS agent instructions was fatally gunned down. A subdued man who posed no threat was fatally shot after having his unmarked firearm removed. Statements by high-ranking Cabinet members have also violated our Second Amendment rights.

For this, the President and Vice President must be impeached, convicted, and removed.

Resist this endless war. Resist fascism now (before it's too late.)

New Haven Sunday Vigil for Peace and Justice

July 5, 2026: <https://newhavensundayvigil.org>

