

ABC's *Good Morning America*

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7:01:05 a.m. [TEASE]

22 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Firing Back; Hegseth vs. Kelly]

MICHAEL STRAHAN: Senator Mark Kelly firing back —

SENATOR MARK KELLY (D-AZ): I have a right just like every other American to say what I think, what I believe.

STRAHAN: — after the Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's censure, accusing the retired Navy captain of making seditious statements.

KELLY [on 11/18/25]: Our laws are clear, you can refuse orders.

STRAHAN: Kelly and his wife, Gabby Giffords, sitting down with Rebecca Jarvis.

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7:13:02 a.m.

3 minutes and 17 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE:

STRAHAN: We're going to turn now to Arizona Senator Mark Kelly firing back after the Pentagon moved to censor him over last year's video urging service members to refuse illegal orders. Rebecca Jarvis spoke with Kelly and his wife, former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, and you're here to tell us about it. Good morning, Rebecca.

REBECCA JARVIS: Yeah, good morning, Michael. Hi, guys. And these allegations, they could cost him his military rank and retirement pay, but this morning Senator Kelly and Gabby Giffords say they are fighting back.

KELLY: I have a right just like every other American to say what I think, what I believe.

JARVIS: This morning, Senator Mark Kelly firing back at Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's censure, claiming the retired Navy captain made reckless and seditious statements, including in this video directed at U.S. service members.

KELLY [on 11/18/25]: Our laws are clear, you can refuse orders.

JARVIS: Hegseth alleging Kelly and other lawmakers counseled members of the armed forces to refuse lawful orders. [TO KELLY] Is there anything in retrospect that you would have said or

done differently over these last several months?

KELLY: Absolutely not. Absolutely not.

FORMER CONGRESSWOMAN GABBY GIFFORDS (D-AZ): Absolutely not.

KELLY: I basically repeated what is in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which is the law for the military. Members of the military need to follow the law. It's very simple.

JARVIS: Upon the video's November release, President Trump calling the message punishable by death and re-sharing a social media post calling for participants in the video to be hanged. Trump later saying he was not threatening death.

KELLY: I said something that the President and Pete Hegseth didn't like and because of that, the President said I should be hanged. I should be prosecuted. This is un-American and this sends a chilling message.

JARVIS [TO KELLY]: How do you respond to critics who say your message risks being read through a partisan lens inside what should be a non-partisan military?

KELLY: It's not partisan. I'm a member of the Armed Services Committee. I'm on the Intelligence Committee, and I would have expected, that if this President said anything about what we said, it would have been, of course, of course, you don't follow illegal orders. But not this guy because he looks at this as maybe somehow as a threat to his authority.

JARVIS: The censure will result in a demotion of Kelly's rank and retirement benefits. Kelly, who served over 25 years in the U.S. Navy, and his wife, former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, vowing to fight the action with everything they've got.

KELLY: Let me make this perfectly clear though. That Gabby and I are not people that back down —

GIFFORDS: No way, Jose.

KELLY: — from anything, from any kind of fight.

JARVIS: Now this censure is more of an administrative action. It is less severe than a court martial. The Defense Secretary is warning that the senator, his reaction to this, may result in discipline and that it could subject him to criminal prosecution or further administrative action. But as you heard there, they say they're fighting back and they have 30 days to respond now.

ROBIN ROBERTS: That's a very strong couple, both of them.

STRAHAN: Mmhmm.

JARVIS: Yes.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Thank you, Rebecca.