

Denmark Extends Captain Paul Watson's Detention As Judge Rules Watson Must Be Detained Until Justice Ministry's Decision



Captain Paul Watson, Outside Nuuk Prison – Robert Read CPWF UK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Paul Watson's Detention Extended Again in Greenland, Heightening Global Concerns over Legal Fairness

13 November 2024, Nuuk, Greenland – In the latest twist of an intensifying legal saga, Judge Lars-Christian Sinkbæk has extended Captain Paul Watson's detention by an additional three weeks, pushing his next court hearing to 2 December 2024—coinciding with the renowned conservationist's 74th birthday. This delay, marking Watson's sixth court appearance since his arrest on 21 July, has provoked growing international scrutiny and mounting questions about the fairness of the proceedings.

Today's brief hearing ended in yet another adjournment, with the Greenlandic court referencing a High Court ruling that the continued detention is not disproportionate. Judge Sinkbæk emphasised the need for expedited action and expressed expectations that a decision on the case's progression would be made before the next hearing date.

“Today, we argued that holding him is disproportionate, but the decision currently lies with a higher court,” said Finn Meinel, Paul Watson's defence solicitor.

Captain Watson, who is fighting extradition to Japan, faces charges stemming from a 2010 protest in the Antarctic against unlawful Japanese whaling. Allegations claim he injured a crew member during a non-lethal protest using a stink bomb—a claim Watson’s supporters argue is being overblown in an attempt to silence his decades-long fight against whaling. Video evidence of the incident, which the defence maintains would exonerate him, was again unavailable for review in today’s proceedings.

“115 days, and they haven’t made a decision,” Watson remarked after the hearing, highlighting the frustration shared by supporters worldwide.

With esteemed conservationists like Sylvia Earle, David Attenborough, and Jane Goodall, among many others, speaking out in support of Paul, it is deeply troubling that his fundamental human right to defend himself and present his evidence continues to be denied. Watson’s supporters, including leading environmental and human rights organisations, are increasingly vocal about the lack of transparency and fairness in the proceedings. They argue that these politically motivated charges are part of a broader effort to silence those fighting to protect our oceans and stifle the global environmental movement.

“It’s much of the same from this Greenland court. Due to the failure of the Danish Ministry of Justice to decide on Japan's extradition request - Paul will be spending his next birthday in court on these trivial revenge charges from the illegal whalers of Japan" said Rob Read, CPWF UK.

Watson’s detention stems from an Interpol red notice issued by Japan, relating to his efforts in 2010 to disrupt illegal whaling activities in the Antarctic Whale Sanctuary. His legal team maintains that these charges are politically motivated, aimed at silencing Watson and intimidating other activists who are working to expose Japan’s unlawful whaling practices, which have been condemned by the International Court of Justice. The case is set to proceed to criminal court, where Watson’s defence team will present evidence of his innocence, pending a decision by the Danish Justice Ministry on whether to move forward with his extradition.

ENDS



On Saturday, the 9th, supporters gathered in front of Parliament House to show their support for Paul Watson.

About Captain Paul Watson Foundation UK:

Captain Paul Watson Foundation UK, founded as Sea Shepherd UK in 2005, is a registered marine conservation charity in England and Wales (registration number 1110501). The Captain Paul Watson Foundation UK, which also operates under the name 'Neptunes Pirates UK', is dedicated to our founder Captain Paul Watson's unique and highly successful non-violent direct action philosophy to saving marine wildlife.

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