

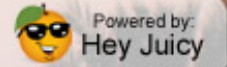


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PITTSBURGH (AP) — A former Marine has sued Pennsylvania Congressman John Murtha for slander over Murtha's comments about the 2005 killings in Haditha, Iraq.

Former Lance Corporal Justin Sharratt (SHUH'-raht) claims the Democrat's 2006 remark that Sharratt his comrades killed women and children "in cold blood" have damaged his reputation and violated his constitutional rights to due process and presumption of innocence.

The 24-year-old Sharratt had been charged with three murder counts but was later exonerated.

Military prosecutors have said two dozen Iraqis, including women and children, were killed in Haditha in November 2005 after a Marine was killed by a roadside bomb.

Sharratt is the second Marine to sue Murtha over the comments. Murtha's office hasn't commented on the latest suit.

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