

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2022

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FJP Statement on the Virginia Attorney General's Decision to End the Prosecution of the Police Officers Responsible for Killing Unarmed Motorist Bijan Ghaisar

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement in response to the Virginia Attorney General's decision to withdraw the state's appeals in the manslaughter case against the two U.S. Park Police officers who fatally shot Bijan Ghaisar:

"We are deeply disappointed and concerned by the Virginia Attorney General's decision to unilaterally halt efforts to pursue justice for Bijan Ghaisar, who was killed by two U.S. Park Police officers in 2017, while unarmed in his car. Almost five years after his death, Ghaisar's family and community have yet to see a transparent investigation into how a routine traffic stop ended with an unarmed man's death. The Attorney General's decision, intended to prevent this case from ever seeing the inside of a courtroom, is a blow to local prosecutorial autonomy and the interests of justice. The Ghaisar family – and the entire community – deserve a fair, open hearing of the facts and law.

We applaud Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano for his years-long effort to secure justice for Ghaisar and his family. We hope that the U.S. Department of Justice will recognize the importance of this case, complete a thorough investigation into Ghaisar's death, and seriously consider moving this case forward so that all involved may have their day in court."

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Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP's work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).