

Commonwealth of Virginia

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

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COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

4/25/22

STATEMENT FROM FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY STEVE DESCANO

~REGARDING ATTORNEY GENERAL JASON MIYARES'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA v. AMAYA AND VINYARD~

Fairfax County (April 25, 2022) – Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano issued the following statement following Attorney General Miyares's decision to withdraw from the case against the U.S. Park Police Officers who shot and killed Bijan Ghaisar:

"After taking the weekend to reflect on Attorney General Miyares's inexplicable decision to withdraw the Commonwealth's appeal in the case against the U.S. Park Police Officers who killed Bijan Ghaisar, I remain saddened and dumbfounded. I am sad for the Ghaisar family, who have suffered an unimaginable ordeal. Not only did they lose their beloved son, but time and again, actors in the criminal justice system treated them with appalling coldness and brutality. Now, after their pain was finally taken seriously and they had a glimmer of hope that the federal officers who killed their son would face a jury, Attorney General Miyares inflicted upon them a fresh wound and new suffering. It is clear from Attorney General Miyares's recent statement on his shameful decision that he viewed the officers whom a Fairfax County grand jury indicted as the real victims and Bijan as a mere footnote. Since this news broke, many community members have reached out to me and expressed not only their heartbreak for the Ghaisars but also their anger at the realization that when their Attorney General talks about "serving victims," his definition of "victim" doesn't match theirs.

I became a prosecutor to help people and do the right thing. It was my profound honor to try to do those things in this case. I will now turn my attention to advocating for the U.S. Department of Justice to prosecute this case. It is my hope that the prosecutors there entered this profession for the same reasons I did and will therefore see this case as worthy of their time and effort."

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