



NEWS RELEASE

March 20, 2024

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No charges filed in officer's use of force in fatal 2023 shooting *Ramsey County Attorney and Minnesota Attorney General make joint decision*

Saint Paul, MN –The Ramsey County Attorney's Office (RCAO) and the Minnesota Attorney General's Office (AGO) today jointly announced their decision that criminal charges are not warranted in the fatal officer-involved shooting incident that resulted in the death of Yia Xiong on February 11, 2023. In a 39-page memorandum, the RCAO and AGO concluded the use of deadly force by Saint Paul Police Officer Abdirahmin Dahir was legal under Minnesota law and that the law does not support filing charges against the officer. Ramsey County Attorney John Choi asked Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison to join the review as an added measure of transparency and a commitment to a complete and impartial review of the evidence.

The decision comes after a lengthy investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), a thorough prosecution review of their case file by both the RCAO and the AGO as well as an independent review from a use of force expert, Jeff Noble. As an independent fact finder, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) interviews witnesses and the people involved in an incident; collects, analyzes, and reviews evidence; and conducts follow-up interviews as needed to ultimately gather all of the facts of a case. The BCA does not decide or determine the outcome of a case, nor does the law enforcement agency involved in an incident have any input regarding the investigative direction of the case. The BCA presented its findings in this case without recommendation to the County Attorney and Attorney General.

“Anytime deadly force is used by the government, it is a tragedy for all those involved, and it requires prosecutors to seek the truth without bias, fear, or favor and do the right thing. The facts of this case and our use of force expert's opinion led us to conclude that Officer Abdirahmin Dahir's use of deadly force was justified under the law and that no criminal charges are appropriate. I am deeply saddened that this legal decision may deepen the pain for Mr. Yia Xiong's family and community members who wanted something different. I want to thank Attorney General Keith Ellison and his staff for joining my office in reviewing this tragic case.” – Ramsey County Attorney John Choi.

“Mr. Xiong's life was precious and important, and his death was tragic. His family and community continue to cherish his memory. This is why we took much care in evaluating the facts of his death. Our determination in this case is and must be based on what the law requires, and it is a responsibility we take with the greatest seriousness even as we hold the victim and his family in our hearts and minds. I

thank County Attorney Choi for entrusting my office and me with assisting them in this matter of great importance to all parties and the community.” – Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison

Since 2016, the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office has assumed the responsibility of reviewing investigations into officer-involved shootings in Ramsey County instead of relying upon a grand jury. This prosecution review included Jeff Noble who has served as an expert use of force witness on prior prosecutions by the RCAO and AGO, including the prosecutions of Jeronimo Yanez in Ramsey County and Derek Chauvin in Hennepin County.

To help the public better understand the facts and circumstances of this incident, we direct them to a webpage maintained by the RCAO. The [Officer-Involved Incident Reviews page](#) hosts a link to the *Decision regarding Yia Xiong*, containing the following:

- The March 12, 2024 memorandum submitted to Ramsey County Attorney John Choi and Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison by RCAO & AGO staff attorneys, containing the attorneys’ review of the evidence gathered and presented by the BCA as well as their legal conclusions and recommendation.
- Emails to and from the RCAO and AGO regarding their agreement with the staff conclusions and recommendation.
- The Use of Force Report from Jeff Noble.

Inquiries regarding the public release of the BCA’s investigative file should be directed to Public Information Officer, Jill Oliveira at Jill.oliveira@state.mn.us.

Note: Contact Dennis Gerhardstein or Brian Evans for additional information.