

**PRESS RELEASE**

Two Men from Virginia Sentenced for Assaulting Law Enforcement with a Dangerous Weapon During Jan. 6 Capitol Breach

Friday, June 7, 2024

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, District of
Columbia

Father and Son Duo Assaulted Police with Multiple Objects

WASHINGTON – Two men from Virginia were sentenced to prison today after they pleaded guilty to assaulting law enforcement officers with a deadly or dangerous weapon during the breach of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Their actions and the actions of others disrupted a joint session of the U.S. Congress convened to ascertain and count the electoral votes related to the 2020 presidential election.

Farhad Azari, 65, of Richmond, Virginia, was sentenced to 30 months in prison, 24 months of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$2000 in restitution. Farbod Azari, 33, also of Richmond, was sentenced to 50 months in prison, 24 months of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$2000 in restitution.

The two men were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth after they both previously pleaded guilty to one count of civil disorder and one count of assaulting, resisting, or

impeding certain officers with a deadly or dangerous weapon. Farhad is the father of Farbod Azari.

According to court documents, the two men traveled from Richmond to Washington, D.C., on Jan. 6, 2021, to protest Congress' certification of the Electoral College vote. After the Azaris arrived, they made their way to the West Front of the Capitol, and, at some point, Farbod and Farhad separated and engaged in the riot separately. At approximately 1:13 p.m., while other rioters dismantled sections of the fencing at the foot of the steps, Farbod approached a section of the fencing, gestured at the line of police officers, spat in their direction, and retreated into the crowd. Several seconds later, Farbod approached the fencing again and threw a water bottle at the officers.

Meanwhile, Farhad engaged with officers defending the police line multiple times. First, he threw a water bottle at officers in the police line. Shortly after that, at about 1:14 p.m., he rushed police as Metropolitan Police Department officers arrived on the scene to reestablish the police line broken earlier by rioters. Farhad kicked a bike rack and then joined with other rioters in pushing the rack back against police officers in a clear attempt to break the newly established line.

At approximately 1:18 p.m., Farbod joined other rioters in dismantling a section of the black fencing at the base of the West Plaza steps by kicking and pulling at it, using his foot to kick at and stomp on the gate until it was flat on the ground. Approximately 30 minutes later, Farhad confronted a line of police officers on the north side of the West Plaza, near the foot of a set of stairs leading to the Upper West Terrace of the Capitol. Farhad had begun to yell at the officers and attempted to kick an object on the ground in the direction of the police. When that failed, Farhad picked up a flagpole and hurled it at the line of officers. Shortly after he threw the flagpole, Farhad obtained an air horn and threw that, too, toward officers.

At about 2:00 p.m., Farbod joined a crowd of rioters under the scaffolding erected over the Northwest stairs — a set of steps leading from the north side of the West Plaza of the Capitol to the north side of the Upper West Terrace. As other rioters attempted to break through the metal bike-rack barricades guarded by United States Capitol Police officers, Farbod waved a flag and used it to jab at the line of USCP officers, making physical contact with one officer's arm. At about 2:09 p.m., the rioters breached the barricades and surged up the Northwest stairs towards the Capitol. Farbod, at the front of the group, chased retreating officers up the stairs.

At approximately 2:14 p.m., Farhad entered the U.S. Capitol building via the Senate Wing Doors through a broken window. Farhad was one of the first rioters to enter the Capitol during the first breach of the Senate Wing Doors. Farhad proceeded toward the Crypt and, while inside, attempted to direct rioters to rush the police line that had formed there to prevent further incursion into the Capitol. He exited the building at approximately 2:35 p.m. via the same broken Senate Wing Door window from which he entered.

At about 2:46 p.m., Farhad reentered the Capitol building via the Parliamentary Doors and entered an office. He then exited via the Parliamentary Doors at about 2:50 p.m. On his way out, Farhad encouraged other rioters to enter the Parliamentary Door. Meanwhile, at approximately 3:30 p.m., Farbod rushed to the north side of the Upper West Terrace, where police officers had formed a line between rioters and the building. Farbod attempted to break through the line of officers by pushing his shoulder into an officer standing between him and the Capitol building. An officer pushed Farbod back into the crowd, and Farbod threw a water bottle at the line of officers. Moments later, Farbod picked up a flagpole, raised it behind his head, took several steps towards the line of police officers, and swung it towards the officers. He then retreated several feet and held the flagpole like a spear before he threw it at the line of officers.

FBI agents arrested the two men on Jan. 18, 2023, in Virginia.

This case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia and the Department of Justice National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

This case was investigated by the FBI's Richmond and Washington Field Offices, which identified Farbod Azari as #187 on its seeking information photos. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department.

In the 41 months since Jan. 6, 2021, more than 1,450 individuals have been charged in nearly all 50 states for crimes related to the breach of the U.S. Capitol, including more than 500 individuals charged with assaulting or impeding law enforcement, a felony. The investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with tips can call 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or visit tips.fbi.gov.

Updated June 13, 2024

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VIOLENT CRIME

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Press Release Number: 24-494

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February 7, 2025

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February 7, 2025

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February 4, 2025

**District of Columbia**

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