

April 15, 2022

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Garland,

It's come to my attention that the Department of Justice has decided to stop seeking the death penalty in the case of a serial domestic abuser who shot and murdered Brittney Niecol Silvers, a United States soldier, in front of her apartment on a U.S. Army base in 2018.

The Department of Justice initially announced on February 25, 2021, its intent to seek the death penalty against Victor Everette Silvers, who murdered Army Sergeant Brittney Niecol Silvers on Fort Campbell in Kentucky in 2018.<sup>1</sup> Sgt. Silvers was assigned to the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Her estranged husband, Victor, was charged with premeditated murder in the case.<sup>2</sup>

Yesterday, federal prosecutors filed a motion to withdraw the notice of intent to seek the death penalty, writing that the withdrawal was "authorized and directed by" you on April 7, 2022.

Why did you "authorize and direct" this action? Has anything changed since February 25, 2021? Sgt. Silvers deserves justice. Please reply no later than 5:00PM on Wednesday, April 20, detailing the reasons for your decision to stop seeking the death penalty against her murderer.

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton  
United States Senator

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdky/pr/death-penalty-sought-murder-fort-campbell-soldier>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdky/pr/estranged-husband-charged-7-count-indictment-murder-ft-campbell-soldier>