

# Community Demands Justice

## After an Immigrant from Bangladesh Is Killed by Police

Cynthia Peters

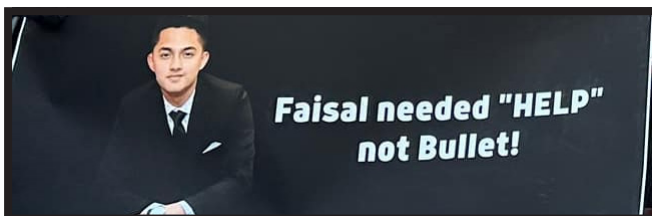


Sayed Faisal was 20 years old. He was a student in Boston. He was an only child. He came to the U.S. with his parents from Bangladesh in 2015. He studied computer science and worked at CVS. On January 4, 2023, he was shot and killed by police. They said he approached them with a knife. This portrait (above) was made by David Fichter. (He is standing on the right.) Fichter knew Faisal when he was a teenager and they worked together on a mural.



Photos by Ryan Nguyen and Cynthia Peters.

People from the Bangladeshi community and others stood in front of Cambridge City Hall on January 9, 2023. They demanded "Justice for Faisal." They said the police should not have killed Faisal. He had been feeling distress. He was hurting himself with the knife. The police chased him. People said the police should have other strategies for helping someone who is feeling distress. They said, he "needed help, not [a] bullet."



**AFTER YOU READ:** Look up Cambridge HEART (<https://www.cambridge-heart.org/>). Learn about an alternative to policing when someone is having a mental health crisis.







The Bangladesh Association of New England wrote on Facebook, “As a community, we are all in this together. We are hoping that we will raise our voices together and bring the best possible outcome for Faisal’s family.”



Many people are advocating for the city to give money to community-based teams to respond to mental health crises. Cambridge HEART is one example (see the box on p. 12). What do you think? Discuss, research, and write about it.