

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 29, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Secretary Johnson,

I write to you regarding the ongoing matter of Mr. Ibrahim Parlak, who is currently motioning for the Immigration Board of Appeals (BIA) to reopen his case, so he may seek relief under the Convention Against Torture (CAT).

Mr. Parlak and his family hope his new motion will afford him the opportunity for the BIA to consider changing conditions in Turkey between the Turkish government and the country's Kurdish population over the last decade, when his case was last reviewed by the BIA. In its decision in 2005, the BIA denied Mr. Parlak's motion for protection under CAT because it believed the relationship between the Turkish government and its Kurdish citizens was improving at that time. In the years since that decision, tensions have continued to grow, which has generated renewed risk for supporters of Kurdish independence. Shortly before the expiration of Deferred Action, Mr. Parlak was the subject of several news articles in the Turkish press, which suggested he may still face persecution if he returns to Turkey.

Since arriving in the U.S. in 1994, Mr. Parlak has become a father to a U.S. citizen daughter and become a small business owner in his community of Harbert, Michigan. He has been an active stakeholder in his community and enjoys strong support from many Southwest Michigan residents.

I am aware Mr. Parlak was granted an extension of his Deferred Action by U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE) through March 22, 2016, in order to afford him the opportunity to have his new motion considered by the BIA. In the interest of ensuring Mr. Parlak's motion and the changing circumstances of his case receive all due consideration, it is my hope ICE will extend Mr. Parlak's Deferred Action while his motion remains pending. Additionally, it is my hope ICE and the Department of Homeland Security will also take this time to carefully review the merits and changing circumstances of Mr. Parlak's case, as it determines its response to his motion.

My office remains ready and willing to offer assistance with any questions you or your staff may have regarding Mr. Parlak's matter. Thank you for continuing attention to Mr. Parlak's case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Peters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being the most prominent.

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator