

More details in Ibrahim Parlak case

Berrien County, MI - NewsCenter 16 has learned more details surrounding Ibrahim Parlak, the Berrien County businessman the United States government calls a “threat to security.”

Details surrounding the case against Parlak

The Department of Homeland Security detained Ibrahim Parlak on July 29th claiming the Harbert man has ties to terrorists.

Michigan Congressman Fred Upton says Parlak was “charged and convicted of participating in the deaths of two Turkish soldiers.”

Parlak's supporters claim his guilt is by association, after his separatist group ran into a scuffle on the Syrian Turkish border with police.

Still claiming his innocence, the Harbert man served ten months for the crime in the late 80's then came to America under political asylum.

More than a decade later the government declared him a threat claiming Parlak never told immigration about the incident.

Not all believe Parlak is guilty

Martin Dzuris, who supports Parlak said, “sometimes things are taken too far, innocent people get caught up in the process. This man they're holding is no threat to anybody.”

Parlak is being held in Battle Creek where his next court appearance is set for October 26th.

Ibrahim Parlak's supporters say when terrorists attacked our country on September 11th, Parlak cried and immediately raised his American flag.

Now, three years later, the stepped-up security from that dreadful day has led to deeper investigations into our immigrants and our borders. This has ultimately led to the mysterious detention of the Berrien County man.

Thirteen years after running from persecution Parlak now faces prosecution for his involvement in alleged wrongdoing while fighting for Kurdish rights in his homeland of Turkey in the 1980's.

Michigan responds to Parlak case

Michigan Republican Congressman Fred Upton released a statement saying “Mr. Parlak was charged and convicted of participating in the deaths of two Turkish soldiers.”

Dzuris says, "The United States government is taking a decision of a Turkish military court as a fact and they're going with that fact."

Congressman Upton said, "My office has been in frequent contact with the Parlak family and they know we are doing all we can to ensure that he can present his case to an immigration judge. It is my understanding that had his arrest, and the activities resulting in that arrest, been disclosed at the time he applied to become a permanent resident of the United States, it is unlikely that it would have been granted."

Dzuris stated that Parlak "was present at the incident but he was not involved in the deaths at all. His gun was unloaded he wasn't doing any shooting."

The prosecutor appealed the charge so they issued another warrant for his arrest and that's when he left the country.

Parlak fled to America under political asylum, building a new life, and a new business in Berrien County.

More about this case will be revealed on October 26th when Parlak makes his next court appearance.