

Additional Charges Filed Against Ibrahim Parlak

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Berrien County, MI - Ibrahim Parlak, the Turkish native who runs a restaurant in Harbert, Michigan, will be spending more time in jail. The new charges come just days before a hearing on whether he would be deported.

This is a set back for the case

Homeland Security officials say Parlak has ties to terrorists. The initial charges claim the Turkish native had ties to a Kurdish organization involved in the killing of two Turkish soldiers in the 1980's.

Parlak has since been granted political asylum in the United States. He and his family live in Harbert, where he operates the Cafe Gulistan restaurant.

The new charges

The government filed three new charges Thursday against Parlak alleging he funded a terrorist organization, smuggled weapons from Syria to Turkey and participated in the deaths of the two soldiers.

Parlak has been in jail in Battle Creek since he was arrested in late July.

His friends say government lawyers didn't get any new information but have timed the additional charges to keep Parlak in jail.

"They want to wear him down just to give up," said Martin Dzuris, a spokesman for the Parlak family.

Parlak's friends have vowed to support him in every way they can.

Dzuris says, "We're not going to give up and we're going to do everything until he prevails, but it's definitely taking a toll, and we believe that is a tactic of the Department of Homeland Security."

Parlak's hearing was continued at the request of his attorneys, so they could adequately respond to the new set of charges.

Supporters plan on chartering a bus so they can attend that hearing set for December 7 in Detroit.