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*Consulate General of the Republic of Turkey
455 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive
Suite 2900
Chicago, IL 60611*

Hon. Fred Upton
Congressman
U.S. House of Representatives

Honorable Congressman,

Chicago, 02.08.2016

I am writing to you regarding the pending deportation and extradition of Ibrahim Parlak, former Turkish national with Kurdish origin, who is reportedly present in the State of Michigan. As I see that misleading news appear in some media outlets and efforts continue to legitimize his illegal stay in the US, with this letter, I would like to kindly bring to your attention certain facts about this case.

Ibrahim Parlak has deliberately misled the US authorities about his criminal background, his membership and activities in PKK which has been listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and the EU. The U.S. Department of State, in consultation with the U.S. Congress, long ago identified and listed PKK as a terrorist organization according to the U.S. Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act. Since 1984, more than 40,000 people, including Americans, have lost their lives due to PKK terrorism.

In March 1988, the PKK appointed Ibrahim Parlak to a terror mission from Syria to Turkey. On May 21, 1988, his heavily armed unit illegally crossed over to Turkey. After entering Turkey, Parlak's unit spotted two Turkish Border Patrols, Sergeant Dinçer Demir and Corporal Şerif Kaya. They opened fire, killing both soldiers, and escaping back into Syria. Parlak was captured, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. His sentence was reduced to six years as a part of the Turkish Republic Reintegration Act, which granted lower criminal sentences in order to rehabilitate and reintegrate convicted criminals, including terrorists, into society to lead productive lives. Parlak confessed to the crime, and served as a government witness in the capture and conviction of other PKK terrorist who were operating within Turkey.

Regrettably, Parlak escaped from prison in Turkey, having only served 16 months of his reduced six-year sentence. Parlak then illegally entered America as a fugitive and remained here under various cover by systematically evading the U.S. authorities.

The facts of Parlak's crime are gruesome and alarming, particularly given that he has managed to evade the U.S. authorities, open and operate a restaurant in Michigan, and lead a secret life for so long.

What is basically a deportation and extradition of national security proportions has regrettably become the object of misguided ethnic politics that dangerously and prejudicially equate Turkish citizens of Kurdish origin with the PKK terrorist organization. The vast majority of Turkey's Kurds do not support violence. The vast majority are integrated with the other more than 30 ethnic groups that comprise the Turkish citizenry. Most live in western Turkey.

Thankfully, the courts of the United States are able to distinguish between a PKK terrorist, such as Parlak, and the average Turkish citizen of Kurdish heritage, which Parlak definitely was not.

The U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project*, 561 U.S. 1 (2010), held that providing any material support, direct or indirect, even to supposed non-violent activity of the PKK, constitutes support to a terrorist organization and is therefore prohibited by law.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit held in Parlak's own case, *Parlak v. Holder*, that deportation is warranted, and that because the PKK persecutes and kills Kurds and non-Kurds who do not support its militant agenda, as a PKK member Parlak cannot plead persecution – a persecutor cannot claim persecution.³

I hope my letter is helpful to understand this matter of international terrorism as it affects your region and state of Michigan. The world has become very small, and we are indeed now immediate neighbors in many ways that require cooperation and solidarity for the common good.

With my kindest regards,

With my kindest regards

Respectfully,



Umut Acar
Consul General

³ United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, *Ibrahim PARLAK, Petitioner-Appellant, v. Eric H. HOLDER, Jr., Respondent-Appellee*. No. 05-4488, Decided: August 24, 2009. See more at: <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/us-6th-circuit/1452570>.



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