

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Criminal No. 21 –
	:	
v.	:	18 U.S.C. § 371
	:	
IBRAHAM KARABATAK	:	<u>INFORMATION</u>
	:	

The defendant having waived in open Court prosecution by Indictment, the Acting United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

A. Introduction

At all times material to this Information:

1. In furtherance of the security and foreign policy interests of the United States, the United States regulated and restricted the export of arms, munitions, implements of war and defense articles, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act (hereinafter, “AECA”). See 22 U.S.C. § 2778.
2. The regulations which governed such exports were titled the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (hereinafter, “ITAR”). See 22 C.F.R. §§ 120-130.
3. The ITAR contained a list of defense articles subject to control by these regulations, which list was called the United States Munitions List (hereinafter, “USML”). See 22 C.F.R. § 121.1.
4. According to the AECA, no defense article could be exported or otherwise transferred to a foreign country without a license from the United States Department of State, Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (hereinafter, “DDTC”). See 22 U.S.C. § 2778(b).

5. Co-Conspirator A, an individual located in The Republic of Turkey, (hereinafter, “Turkey”) requested that Co-Conspirator E purchase defense articles, i.e., firearm parts, from suppliers in the United States and directed Co-Conspirator E to export the firearm parts from the United States to Turkey. Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK sent the firearm parts purchased by Co-Conspirator E and KARABATAK from the United States to Co-Conspirator A and other co-conspirators in Turkey.

6. Co-Conspirator E and KARABATAK purchased defense articles, i.e., firearm parts, from suppliers in the United States and directed the suppliers to deliver the firearm parts to Co-Conspirator E, Co-Conspirator B, Co-Conspirator C and Co-Conspirator D in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Co-Conspirator E along with Co-Conspirator B, Co-Conspirator C and Co-conspirator D accepted the shipments of firearm parts at multiple addresses in the New Jersey and Philadelphia area. Defendant KARABATAK and Co-Conspirator E sent the firearm parts from the United States to Turkey and the Republic of Georgia.

7. KARABATAK was a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Co-Conspirator E received defense articles, i.e., firearm parts, purchased by Co-Conspirator E and KARABATAK from multiple suppliers in the United States. Co-Conspirator E and KARABATAK re-packaged and concealed the firearm parts within machine parts while falsely labeling the contents of the package before attempting to export the firearm parts to Turkey and the Republic of Georgia on behalf of Co-Conspirator A and other Co-Conspirators. When shipping the firearm parts to Turkey and the Republic of Georgia, Co-Conspirator E used unassociated names to conceal his true identity.

8. Co-Conspirator E, Co-Conspirator A and KARABATAK primarily used WhatsApp, a messaging and calling mobile application, to discuss the sales and shipment of

firearms and firearm parts from the United States to Turkey and the Republic of Georgia, and otherwise facilitate communication between Co-Conspirator E, Co-conspirators A and B, and other Co-Conspirators.

9. An upper receiver is the part of a firearm that contains the slide, bolt, firing pin, and other components necessary for the firearm to operate. Glock upper receivers were firearm parts and were USML Category (I) defense articles.

10. .40 caliber pistol barrels, 9mm caliber pistol barrels and .357 caliber pistol barrels were USML Category (I) defense articles.

11. At no time during the conspiracy did Co-Conspirator E, Co-Conspirator A or KARABATAK apply for or obtain a license or written authorization from DDTC to export defense articles from the United States to Turkey or the Republic of Georgia. A thorough search of relevant law enforcement databases confirmed no active or expired licenses to engage in the business of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in firearms and no license authority to ship, transport, or receive firearms in interstate or foreign commerce.

B. The Conspiracy

11. Beginning as early as November 2018 and continuing through March 2019, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant,

IBRAHIM KARABATAK,

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with Co-Conspirator E, Co-Conspirator D and others to violate the laws of the United States; to wit, the following statutes and regulations:

- a. Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778, and 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 127.1, knowingly and willfully exporting defense articles from the United States without first obtaining an export license or written approval from DDTC; and,
- b. Title 18, United States Code, Section 554, smuggling goods from the United States.

C. Object of the Conspiracy

It was the object of the conspiracy that the conspirators caused firearms parts purchased in the United States to be shipped to Turkey and the Republic of Georgia without the required license from DDTC.

D. Manner and Means

The manner and means used to accomplish the objects of the conspiracy included, among others, the following:

12. It was part of the conspiracy that the conspirators, including Co-Conspirators A and B, used credit cards and other forms of payment to purchase firearm parts from suppliers located in the United States and directed the suppliers to send the firearm parts to addresses in the United States in order to make it appear that the sale was a domestic sale.

13. It was further part of the conspiracy that, to facilitate their illicit transactions with co-conspirators located in Turkey and the Republic of Georgia the conspirators utilized WhatsApp and other electronic means to facilitate communication with each other.

14. It was further part of the conspiracy that the co-conspirators used false identities when shipping firearms parts and falsified manifest descriptions on outbound shipments.

15. The conspirators exported from the United States at least \$200,000 worth of defense articles, the exact sum total unknown, without first obtaining the required export license

from DDTC.

E. Overt Acts in Furtherance of the Conspiracy

15. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its unlawful object, the defendant, IBRAHAM KARABATAK, Co-Conspirator A and Co-Conspirator E, committed and caused to be committed the following overt acts within the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, which are described in substance below:

- a. On or about June 21, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including Glock 19, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete slide assemblies, from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$6,078.00 for the items.
- b. On or about June 25, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including Glock 17, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete slide assemblies, from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$6,078.00 for the items.
- c. On or about June 29, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including Glock 19, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete slide assemblies, from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$8,823.75 for the items.
- d. On or about August 29, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including: Glock 17, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete

- upper slide assemblies; Glock 19, Generation 3, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock, Polymer P80 Compact Frame Kits;¹ Glock 19 Lower Parts Kits; Glock 19, Generation 4, 15 round magazines; a Glock 17, Generation 3 lower part kit; and a ZEV Bronze Dimpled Handgun barrel from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$15,599.00 for the items.
- e. On or about October 8, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including: Glock 17, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock 43, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock 26, Polymer P80 Compact frame kits; Glock 26 lower part kits; Glock Generation 4, handgun magazines; Glock 26, Generation 5, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock 33, Generation 3, .357 caliber complete upper slide assemblies; and Glock 19, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$14,705.00 for the items.
- f. On or about October 18, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including Glock 26, Generation 5, 10 round magazines, from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$122.78 for the items.

¹ A Polymer80 Frame is a firearm frame that is 80% complete; the pin holes and rail clearances have not been drilled out. A Polymer80 kit includes the frame along with a jig and drill bits that will assist in converting the Polymer80 into a completed frame.

- g. On or about October 26, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including: Glock 17, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock 19, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; and Glock 26, Generation 5, 9mm caliber complete slide assemblies from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$5,180.00 for the items.
- h. On or about November 5, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including: Glock 19, Generation 3, 9mm caliber complete slide assemblies; Glock 26, Generation 5, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock 26, Polymer P80 Compact frame kits; Glock 26/19/33 lower part kits; Glock 33, Generation 3, .357 caliber complete upper slide assemblies; and Glock OEM handgun magazines from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$17,294.00 for the items.
- i. On or about November 15, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and Co-Conspirator D purchased firearm parts, including: Glock 26, Generation 5, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock 19, Generation 3, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; and a Glock 17, Generation 4, 17 round firearm magazine from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Malvern, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$6,358.00 for the shipment.
- j. On or about November 21, 2018, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including a Sig Sauer P320 .45 ACP Full Size Kit- w Hardcase and Sig Sauer P320 9mm Full Size Kit w box, from a distributor located in

- Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$952.00 for the shipment.
- k. On or about February 20, 2019, Co-Conspirator E and IBRAHAM KARABATAK purchased firearm parts, including: Glock 17, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock 19, Generation 4, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock 19, Generation 3, 9mm caliber complete slide assemblies; Glock 23, Generation 4, 40 SW caliber complete upper slide assemblies; Glock 32, Generation 4, .357 caliber complete upper slide assemblies; and Glock 17, Generation 3, 9mm caliber complete upper slide assemblies, from a distributor located in Illinois, requested that the parts be sent to a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania address and paid approximately \$25,172.00 for the items.
 - l. On or about February 27, 2019, Co-Conspirator E attempted to ship eight Glock firearm uppers that consisted of slides, barrels and sights to an individual in the Republic of Georgia from a United States Post Office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The package (Parcel "2885") was declared as a "CNC filter part," and the firearm parts, contained inside the filter unit, were discovered upon an outbound border search by law enforcement.
 - m. On or about March 2, 2019, Co-Conspirator E attempted to ship another parcel to an individual in the Republic of Georgia from a United States Post Office in Clementon, New Jersey (Parcel "6989"). The contents of the parcel were declared as a "Dual Oil Tank," and the firearm parts were found inside the oil tank unit upon an outbound border search by law enforcement.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

Rachael A. Honig ^{by Ak}

RACHAEL A. HONIG
Acting United States Attorney