

BIS Imposes 20-Year Export Denial against Turkish National for Aiding and Abetting a Violation of a Temporary Denial Order

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) today announced that Yavuz Cizmeci, a Turkish national, has agreed to a denial of his export privileges for 20 years to settle charges that he aided and abetted his company’s transfer of U.S.-origin aircraft to Iran Air without the required BIS authorization and in violation of a Temporary Denial Order.

"The substantial denial order imposed in this case reflects the egregious conduct where an individual flouted a temporary denial order and facilitated Iran Air obtaining a cargo aircraft," said Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement, David Mills.

BIS charged Cizmeci, President and Chief Executive Officer of a Turkish charter airline doing business under the name Ankair, with a single count of violating the terms of a denial order by facilitating the re-export of a Boeing aircraft to Iran. An investigation by BIS’s Office of Export Enforcement found that Cizmeci submitted false documents to Turkish authorities claiming the plane was bound for Pakistan, when in fact it was destined for Tehran, Iran, about one month after Ankair was notified that it was subject to a Temporary Denial Order.

BIS controls exports and re-exports of commodities, technology, and software to support national security and foreign policy, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and missile non-proliferation, human rights, regional stability, and curbing terrorism. Criminal penalties and administrative sanctions can be imposed for violations of the Export Administration Regulations. For more information, please visit www.bis.doc.gov.

BACKGROUND

Cizmeci’s company, now defunct, was Dunyaya Bais Havacilik Tasimaciligi, A.S., also known as Dunyaya Bakis Air Transportation, Ltd. and doing business as Ankair. On June 6, 2008, Ankair was added to a Temporary Denial Order naming others, including Iran Air and Galaxy Aviation Trade Company Ltd., to prevent the re-export of a Boeing 747 aircraft to Iran Air. The aircraft, bearing tail number TC-AKZ and manufacturer’s serial number 24134, was located in Istanbul, Turkey and was in the process of being re-exported or transferred to Iran Air. After notification of being added to the Temporary Denial Order, Cizmeci, acting as Ankair’s CEO, facilitated the transfer and re-export of the Boeing 747 to Iran Air.