

## **Judge denies bail for Iranian in immigration case**

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### **Body**

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An **Iranian** man living in Philadelphia who allegedly threatened a bombing after he was fired from his Center City restaurant job was ordered held without **bail** yesterday by a federal **judge** on suspicion of lying to U.S. **immigration** officials.

Behboud Najafi, 30, of the 1400 block of Dickinson Street in South Philadelphia, was arrested March 28 by the U.S. Bureau of **Immigration** and Customs Enforcement and charged with making false statements on **immigration** documents.

Najafi was ordered held without **bail** yesterday by U.S. Magistrate **Judge** Thomas J. Rueter after federal prosecutors filed documents alleging threats made last year while Najafi worked for an unnamed Chestnut Street restaurant.

Early last year, Najafi allegedly told restaurant workers he was so upset about the Israeli-Palestinian situation "he should blow himself up in support of the Palestinians," according to a motion filed by Assistant U.S. Attorney M. Taylor Aspinwall.

When Najafi was fired in May 2002, the motion reads, he told his former employer that "he was going to do something in Philadelphia . . . which his employer understood meant a bombing."

He also allegedly threatened to hurt his "employer's people, stating he knew where they gathered."

Aspinwall declined to elaborate.

Najafi's federal defender, Ross Thompson, could not be reached for comment.

Court documents state that Najafi entered the United States in 1996 using a fraudulent Greek passport, and was granted asylum in November 1996. He became a permanent resident last April.

Najafi apparently came under suspicion in December after he applied to U.S. **immigration** officials for permission to travel to Canada and Turkey this July. Agents searching Najafi's apartment on March 28, court document allege, found an **Iranian** passport Najafi obtained in July 2000 through the Pakistani Embassy in Washington.

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