



PRESS-REGISTER

Federal court digest: Kurdish woman's long battle ends with green card

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Staff Report

A Kurdish woman who fled Iraq nine years ago has finally ended a journey to permanent residency in the United States.

U.S. District Judge William Steele this week dismissed a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security at the request of the woman, Shukrya Ahmed Barwary, whose application for permanent residency had been mired in red tape.

Barwary came to America with her husband and children, settling in Mobile in 1998. While her husband and daughter quickly got green cards, she and her son were delayed by bureaucracy.

She and her son, Nechervan Barwary, filed a federal lawsuit in Mobile last summer in an attempt to force the federal government to move on their cases. Shortly afterward, the government granted Nechervan Barwary's application.

But complications led the court to postpone several deadlines for resolving the case. For example, immigration authorities said Barwary would have to make a brand-new application for permanent residency. The reason? The case had been delayed so long that her husband had become a citizen, ending the original asylum case of which she was a part.

Shukrya Barwary filled out a new application, and her lawyer, Karen Weinstock, said Friday that federal authorities agreed to expedite the case.

"She's got her green card, and everything is well," Weinstock said.

"She's on the right track to get her citizenship," the lawyer said. "She's elated, very happy."