Iranians go to court on gun smuggling charges

One Iranian pleaded guilty and another elected to go on trial Monday in federal court on charges of attempting to smuggle guns to their homeland.

U.S. District Judge Shirley Jones dismissed the charge against a third Iranian.

Federal agents arrested eight Iranians Nov. 15 at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, where they were preparing to board a plane for New York and Paris. Three rifles and 16 boxes of ammunition were discovered in their possession.

Two of the Iranians, both students at Community College of Baltimore, pleaded guilty last Friday in a plea-bargain arrangement with federal prosecutors in return for promising to leave the country at the end of the academic semester.

Bagher Moomeny, 28, pleaded guilty to placing guns on a common carrier. He is the only one of the Iranians who has remained in jail since his arrest. Federal agents said they found the guns and ammunition in Moomeny's bags.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathy Blake said prosecutors decided to dismiss charges against Mohammad Toolabi, 25, "in the interests of justice." Toolabi, an engineering student at CCB, agreed to leave the country at his own expense after the semester ends May 31.

The third Iranian, Seyed Mosavi 27, elected to stand trial. Prosecutors said he will be tried only on gun-running charges and not for conspiracy because a similar charge had been dismissed against several of the others.

Defense attorneys had asked that charges against all five be dropped because their clients would not get a fair trial in the current political climate. They also claimed the guns were discovered in an illegal search.

The Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms learned of the Iranians plan from a Catonsville sporting goods dealer who sold them the guns and ammunition.

Mitchell disagrees

Councilman calls home loan program 'unfair'

City Councilman Carroll J. Fitzgerald, D-3rd, says a low interest mortgage loan program run by the city is unfair to residents who are excluded because they owned a home in Baltimore during the three ye ars before the program started.

Fitzgerald introduced a resolution Monday night at the City Council meeting that would amend the law to allow city homeowners to take advant age of the loan program.

The restictions were written into the law passed to initiate the pr ogram last November to prevent middle-class city residents from using the loans to move into a better home. The program was designed to encourage suburban residents to move into the city.

"It is grossly unfair that a city resident can't upgrade himsel f," Fitzgerald said.

But Councilman Michael Mitchell, D-4th branded Fitzgerald's move another attempt "to threaten the efforts of poor and black citize ns to get decent housing."

Jai alai bill shaky

Several Baltimore legislators say efforts to legalize jai alai gamb ling in the city will not succeed unless Mayor William Donald Schaefer gives his support to the proposal.

Sen. Harry J. McGuirk, D-Baltimore, said Tuesday he thinks the bill

would pass the legislature if Schaefer actively lobbied for it. But Mc Gurk said he would not support the bill unless Schaefer endorsed it.

A spokesman for the mayor said Schaefer has not changed his stance of maintaining public silence on the issue.

Owners of two Connecticut frontons, the arenas where jai alai is played, have stepped up lobbying efforts in Annapolis to garner sup port for the legalization bill. A similar measure died during last ye ar's session.

Sen. Clarence Blount, D-Baltimore, said the bill would die on commi ttee unless Schaefer endorses the plan.

The Clean Water People are having a meeting

DO YOU KNOW HOW THE 208 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN WILL AFFECT YOU?

—programs to control sediment-erosion in developing areas
—overview on sludge management and solid waste
—used oil recycling
—control agricultural pollution from sediment and animal waste
—stormwater management program
—reservoir protection agreement
—Jones Falls Urban Runoff Project
—Lake Roland Study

Information Meetings:

Mon., March 3, 1980 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church
Kelly Ave. & South Road
Mt. Washington

Wed., March 5, 1980 7:30 p.m.
Revitalization Office
505 Eastern Boulevard
Essex, Maryland

Mon., March 5, 1980 7:30 p.m.
Baltimore County Office Building
111 W. Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland

Public Hearings:

Tues., April 8, 1980 7:30 p.m.
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
1400 W. Cold Spring Lane
Baltimore, Maryland

Wed., March 19, 1980 7:30 p.m.
Baltimore County Office Building Room 106
111 W. Chesapeake Avenue
Towson, Maryland

Contact:
Interested persons and representatives of local governments and organizations are invited to present their views and comments in person or in writing at these hearings. Written testimony should be mailed to:

Marilyn Goldstein
Public Participation Coordinator
208 Water Quality Management Planning Program

Regional Planning Council
2225 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Copies of the plan are available at all public libraries throughout the region. If you have any questions, you can contact Ms. Marilyn Goldstein at (301) 383-7226 and she can refer you to your local 208 Office.

We are looking forward to meeting you!

Methodists to launch 80s mission

Bishop Nathaniel Linsey of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, chairman of the Washington Area Mission to the Eighties, recently addressed a gathering at the Mt. Vernon Place Church.

Linsey stressed the significance of six Methodist denominations working together on the local level, while presenting Australian Alan Walker, World Evangelism Director at a dinner at the church.

The groups are formally launching the program locally at Constitution Hall, March. 1 and 2. They include the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Zion, the CME Church, the United and Free Methodist Churches and the Wesleyan Church.

Walker, who has taken a five year leave from his-13,000 member Wesley Central Mission in Sydney, Australia, will preach at Constitution Hall March 1 and 2 at 7:30 p.m., and also in Baltimore, Hagerstown, Salisbury and Wilmington.

Kenneth Neal trial begins March 3

A 22-year-old man who is charged with killing his girlfriend and three of her relatives s scheduled to appear in Federal Court March 3, 10 a.m. for trial.

Kenneth Howard Neal, of the 3900 block Woodridge Ave., allegedly killed Ms. Donzella Peters, 21; her daughter, Danielle Shoulders, 3; George Calvin Peters, 17 and 3-year-old Dominick E. Peters, of the 3500 block Spaulding Ave., in May 1979.

The four relatives vanished when they left their home en route to the laundromat around 1:30 p.m. April 21. According to the FBI, the suspec, former boyfriend of Ms. Peters, met the four members of the Peters family at the laundromat.

They reportedly drove off and were never seen alive again. The FBI entered the case because one of the homicides was committed on government property.

At a bail hearing in May 1979 Neal was described by federal magistrate Clarence Goetz as "a danger to the community." According to court records, Neal has no prior convictions, although he has entered a plea of guilty to a charge of kidnapping in Criminal Court. The FBI reports the victims were stabbed. Ms. Peters and her daughter were found in the Occoquan River, about a mile west of Interstate 95, according to Virginia police and the FBI.

Court overturns manslaughter conviction of woman whose grandson froze

ANNAPOLIS Attorney Alvin Sellman figures an appeals court's decision to reverse the manslaughter conviction of a poor woman whose grandson froze to death in her unheated apartment is proof that the criminal justice system works.

"If she was guilty, then everybody in society was a little guilty because of the conditions she had to live in," Sellman said after the Court of Special Appeals threw out the conviction and four-year sentences of Lillie P. Brown.

Maryland's second highest court ruled last week there was no evidence that the 43-year-old welfare mother was grossly negligent when her 3-year-old grandson Mark froze to death while sleeping on the floor one winter night in 1977.

"I'm happy for her," Sellman said. "It's a sad situation all

the way around. She really loved that boy She was just a victim of the society she was in, a victim of poverty."

Ms. Brown, her seven children and Mark lived on $433 a month in an East Baltimore rowhouse described by the court as "a hovel." A few windows in the home were broken and the oil furnace tank had been punctured, causing loss of heat.

Ms. Brown rented the rowhouse for $108-a-month from Raymond Weinberg, who city housing officials said owns many properties and has been cited for hundreds of housing violations in recent years.

She testified that she had tried for nine months to get Weinberg to repair the furnace.

It was in the living room of that home that Mark Brown, wearing pants, socks and an coat bedded down on some cushions on the floor Nov. 26, 1977. That night the temperature dipped to 28 degrees and the boy froze to death.

Ms. Brown was found guilty of gross negligence and sentenced to four years in prison by Supreme Bench Judge Martin B. Greenfield. Her children were placed in a foster home after her conviction.

But the court threw out the verdict on grounds the "record fails to disclose anything 'remarkable' which would lead to the conclusion that (Ms. Brown) was grossly negligent."

Justices pointed out that four other children slept on a floor in the same room and were not affected by the cold.

Black Caucus sets plush affair March 4

The second annual fund raiser set by the Legislative Black Caucus for Tuesday, March 4 is scheduled as a plush affair, a reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Blue Crest North, followed by a sitdown dinner and ending with dancing. The open bar extends throughout the gala evening.

President Sen. Robert Douglass and vice Del. Frank M. Conaway announce that the funds from the $25 subscriptions will go toward the new Research Office in Annapolis where the six senators and 14 members of the House of Delegates sit each General Assembly. A staff of experts will be employed to treat legislative issues with systematic research, appraisal and evaluation during the General Assembly sessions.

The Maryland Legislative Black Caucus was founded shortly after Congressman Parren J. Mitchell organized the black members of Congress as a body in the early 1970s Currently, the Maryland group is the largest of all the states of the Union with its total of 20 members. Sixteen come from Baltimore City; three from Prince Georges County and one from Anne Arnudel County.

The group has been successful in many legislative efforts in interest of all Maryland citizens regardless of race. The public is welcome to gjoin as guests at the event at the Blue Crest North.

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SKIRTS— Polyester & Cotton, Wool, Print & Solid (4500 to choose from) **30 to 50% off**
DRESSES— Juniors, Misses, Women, Choose from many styles and Fabrics (4000 to choose from) **25 to 65% off**

GIRLS CLEARANCE

TOPS— Sweaters, Knits, Novelties, Dressy, Casual (7000 to choose from) **33⅓ to 60% off**
PANTS— Casual, Fashion, Denim, Pull-on (2500 to choose from) **25 to 50% off**
SKIRTS— Polyester, Cotton, Fashion (2000 to choose from) **30 to 60% off**
DRESSES— Holiday, Two Piece, Skirt Sets, Pant Suits (1500 to choose from) **30 to 60% off**

INFANTS CLEARANCE

TOPS— Sweaters, Knits, Prams, Polos (1500 to choose from) **25 to 50% off**
PANTS— Novelty, Fashion, Denim (2000 to choose from) **20 to 50% off**
DRESSES— Jumpers, Diaper Sets, Novelties, Fancy (500 to choose from) **30 to 60% off**

OUTERWEAR CLEARANCE

OUTERWEAR — Ladies, Girls, Infants **25% to 60%**
SHOES— Select Group of Womens Sandals, Casuals and Childrens Tennis. $1.00
Canvas, Leather & Vinyl Shoes
Select Group of Womens Better Grade Sports and Sandals. $3.00
Flat Heels & Straps Included

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