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## **Mother in hedge fund fraud scheme with son is sentenced to 2 years in prison**

**By John Christoffersen**  
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NEW HAVEN, Conn. — A woman convicted with her son in a multimillion-dollar hedge fund scam was sentenced Monday to two years in prison.

Ayferafet Yalincak, 52, pleaded guilty last year to conspiracy to commit wire fraud but tried to downplay her role in a scheme she blamed on her 22-year-old son.

“I have the uneasy feeling today of not really knowing what should be believed and what should not be believed about this defendant,” said U.S. District Judge Janet Bond Arterton, who ordered Yalincak to surrender to federal authorities April 24. Yalincak and her son also must pay \$2.25 million in restitution.

“I don't have confidence her future will be on without further fraud,” Arterton said.

Prosecutors say Yalincak's son, Hakan Yalincak, charmed his way into the exclusive world of Greenwich high finance by posing as an heir to a wealthy Turkish family, shuttled counterfeit checks across the world and brokered deals with a Kuwaiti financier.

He faces five to 6½ years in prison under guidelines for his sentencing later this month.

Ayferafet Yalincak, who faced two to 2½ years in prison, said in court papers that she was “bent to the will” of her brilliant college-age son and played a limited role in the fraud.

She addressed the court briefly Monday, saying she felt she was helping her son.

“My son has made lots of mistakes,” she said. “As a family, we are trying to rectify the past.”

The hearing was delayed briefly when Yalincak, on the verge of learning her sentence, told Arterton she wasn't feeling well and stumbled back to her chair. The hearing resumed about 45 minutes later.

Yalincak's attorney, Jeremiah Donovan, said his client believed her son was a brilliant trader.

“She truly did believe this was the boy genius, the child of her dreams, who would make everybody rich,” Donovan said.

But prosecutors say Hakan Yalincak could not have persuaded sophisticated investors to give him large sums of money without assurances their investments were safe. Ayferafet Yalincak told a federal judge last year that she attended meetings with investors and allowed her son to present her as a member of an exceedingly wealthy Turkish family who was going to invest millions in his hedge fund.

Prosecutor Calvin Kurimai rejected the notion that she believed her son was a brilliant trader, saying she knew that family expenses were paid from credit card fraud from 1998 to 2002.

Arterton said the loss attributed to Ayferafet Yalincak was more than \$1 million, while prosecutors say she was responsible for an intended loss of \$5.3 million and an actual loss of \$3.9 million after some of the money was returned to investors.

Ayferafet Yalincak purchased, or had purchased for her, a \$56,000 Mercedes Benz and a \$51,000 diamond ring with investors' funds, authorities said. She also lived in a house with an annual rental fee of \$77,000 that came from investors' funds, prosecutors said.

Authorities say the Yalincaks also gave \$1.25 million of investor money as a down payment on a \$21 million donation to New York University, where Hakan Yalincak was a student. The Yalincaks showed potential investors a press release about that donation, using it to cast themselves as wealthy philanthropists in hopes of luring more investment, prosecutors said.

Hakan Yalincak's 19-year-old sister, Hale, testified Monday that the donation was her brother's idea.

"We all thought it was really weird," she said.

Hale Yalincak, who was not charged in the scheme, also testified that her brother was an intelligent loner who spent a lot of time on the computer when he was younger.

"He told us he was manipulating the Japanese economy, and without him the Japanese economy would fail," she said.

She said he was also violent toward family members and would threaten to kill himself.

During the scheme, she testified, Hakan Yalincak was in control, telling family members what clothing and jewelry to wear and how to eat during meetings with investors. She said her brother would often kick her under the table to get her to say certain things and tell their father to sit up straight and not eat so much. He also was not charged.

Following their sentences, both Ayferafet and Hakan Yalincak face possible deportation to Turkey.

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