



Information Sheet on 'Muslim Ban 3.0':

President Trump's *Revised* Muslim Ban And Refugee Suspension Executive Order

On September 24, 2017, President Trump signed yet another ["updated"](#) version of his executive order, **"Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States"** -- popularly known as the "Muslim Ban". The new executive order, which was set to go into effect on October 18, replaces the January 27 order and previous "Muslim Ban 2.0" update, the subject of mass protests and legal challenges.

On October 17 the day before the updated "Muslim ban 3.0" was to go into effect, federal judges in Hawaii and Maryland partially blocked the ban and issued a temporary restraining order that will keep the ban from being issued in the six majority-Muslim states listed. These rulings are likely to be appealed.

The new executive order, now known as the "Muslim Ban 3.0", was designed to address those legal challenges, which had produced a suspension of the ban's implementation. The first order had been widely condemned for stigmatizing and discriminating against Muslims, and its implementation caused chaos at airports in the U.S. and abroad.

While the new executive order contains several changes including the addition of two non-Muslim-majority countries to the ban, the outlines are the same and it still plays to fear, racism, xenophobia and anti-Muslim prejudices, and undermines U.S. international obligations towards the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

Among the changes, this third version indefinitely bans travel to the United States until the affected nations comply with the requirements, as opposed to the previous 90-day ban, and targets individuals from three new countries including Chad --a Muslim-majority state-- as well as North Korea and Venezuela. The ban no longer includes Sudan. While this updated ban includes two non-Muslim majority countries, the restrictions on these two countries are insignificant in comparison to the other six countries.

The main elements of the order include:

- **The suspension of immigrant and nonimmigrant entries of nationals from Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen and North Korea (all majority Muslim countries except North Korea) indefinitely.** This measure is supposed to give the Administration time to improve vetting procedures. The countries on this list are described as a “state sponsor of terrorism, has been significantly compromised by terrorist organizations, or contains active conflict zones”. However, since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, there have been no fatalities by anyone from these seven countries. Visa access had already been limited for nationals from Iran and Syria. Others countries could be added to the list.
- **The suspension of entries of government officials and their families from Venezuela indefinitely.** The majority of visas for Venezuelans will continue to be permitted because the ban only includes government officials and their families.
- **Exceptions are made** for people who are U.S. permanent residents, dual nationals with U.S. citizenship, people attending diplomatic missions, and people who have already been granted asylum or refugee status.
- **Sudan is no longer included on the target country list.** The Administration has not provided any of the reasoning behind this decision.
- **Restrictions for Somalia and Iran are relaxed.** Restrictions for Somalia will be relaxed for non-immigrant visitors and in Iran for students and other exchange visitors.

Provisions from the earlier “Muslim Ban 2.0”

- **Iraq is no longer included in the target country list,** after negotiations following the first order between the U.S. and Iraq that agreed on particular security measures. Iraq is considered as a key element in the fight against ISIS.
- **The suspension of all refugee admissions for 120 days.** Some refugees could be admitted on a case-by-case basis. **Update:** The original 120 day ban on refugee admissions expired on October 24, 2017. Trump announced a resumption of refugee screenings under more strict guidelines.
- **The creation of a “uniform baseline” for screening and vetting standards and procedures,** to “identify individuals who seek to enter the United States on a fraudulent basis, who support terrorism, violent extremism, acts of violence toward any group or class of people within the United States, or who present a risk of causing harm subsequent to their entry”.
- **A limit of 50,000 refugee admissions,** less than half of the 110,000 admissions designated by the Obama Administration for FY 2017. Around 85,000 refugees were accepted in 2016. This cap was met on July 12, 2017. **Update:** On October 24, 2017

President Trump set a new cap of 45,000 for the fiscal year of 2018 which began on October 1, 2017.

- **The completion of a biometric entry-exit tracking system for in-scope travelers to the US.** While this program already exists, it is controversial and noted for its expense and flaws. Some policy makers and experts believe that the biographic data is already sufficient. While the system may identify someone who has overstayed a visa, it cannot determine a person's location.
- **The suspension of the Visa Interview Waiver Program,** thus requiring in-person interviews for all nonimmigrant visa applicants.
- **Public reports on immigrants criminality** (foreign nationals in the U.S. who have been charged with terrorism related offenses while in the country or number of those who have been radicalized while in the U.S). Focused on marginal numbers, these reports would further Trump's stigmatization of immigrants and refugees as criminals, even as data shows that immigrants are less likely to engage in criminal activity than native-born.

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