



I S S U E A M N E S T Y
I N T E R N A T I O N A L B R I E F

#NoBanNoWall: Congress Must Oppose the Muslim Ban 2.0

On March 6, 2017, President Trump signed a new Executive Order on “Protecting the Nation from Terrorist Entry Into The United States by Foreign Nationals.” This Executive Order revokes the Executive Order of the same name issued on January 27, 2017, which had been “stayed” (temporarily suspended) by various U.S. courts. Similar to its predecessor, which was widely described as the Muslim ban, this Executive Order is being described as the Muslim Ban 2.0 because it bars visas for nationals from only six countries, all of which are Muslim majority.

This Executive Order is a more subtle but equally dangerous and hateful version of the January 27 Executive Order. The changes to the text do not alleviate Amnesty International USA’s serious human rights concerns, both in terms of anti-Muslim discrimination as well as the destructive implications for refugee rights. Amnesty International USA believes the order is cruel, divisive, and inhumane. It is also unlawful and discriminatory.

Among other actions, the Executive Order:

- Bans visas for nationals from Syria, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen, all Muslim-majority countries, for at least 90 days;
- Suspends the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (“USRAP”) for at least 120 days; and
- Cuts refugee admissions for fiscal year 2017 from 110,000 to 50,000, if and when USRAP resumes.

The visa ban and refugee admissions suspension are written as “temporary” – but could easily become permanent, and the list of banned countries could expand for both visa holders and refugees. The Executive Order mandates the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security to review the USRAP application and adjudication process “to determine what additional procedures should be used to ensure that individuals seeking admission as refugees do not pose a threat to the security and welfare of the United States.” Following the 120-day suspension, the USRAP will resume admissions for nationals of countries for which the Secretaries of Homeland Security and State and the Director of National Intelligence have jointly determined that sufficient safeguards are in place. Additional countries may also be subject to the visa ban if the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, or the Secretary of Homeland Security “recommends other lawful restrictions or limitations deemed necessary for the security or welfare of the United States.”

This executive order has a devastating human impact. As with its predecessor, this Executive Order will cause chaos, fear, and uncertainty among the Muslim community. People are afraid of what happens next, and whether President Trump will make good on other threats against Muslims, critics, and dissidents. The Executive Order sets a dangerous precedent for other countries to turn their backs on refugees and asylum seekers and will aggravate the global refugee crisis.

Recommendations to Members of Congress

1. Senators should co-sponsor S. 608, introduced by Senator Diane Feinstein, which nullifies the executive order. *Please see the Letter to Senators for more information:* <http://bit.ly/2mbqJEn>
2. Congressional representatives should co-sponsor H.R. 1503, introduced by Rep. Zoe Lofgren, which nullifies the executive order and blocks funding for its implementation.

Amnesty International is a global movement with 7 million supporters worldwide campaigning to promote and defend human rights. For additional information, contact Naureen Shah at nshah@aiusa.org or Denise Bell at dbell@aiusa.org.