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Understanding the Trump Administration's New Muslim/African Travel Ban (Current June 2025)

This educational document was produced by the Council on American-Islamic Relations, America's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. In June, the Trump administration signed a proclamation announcing a new and expanded travel ban, which targets 19 mostly Muslim and African nations. The ban went into effect on June 9, 2025. Below, we present information regarding the ban, who is impacted, and how citizens and non-citizens alike can protect themselves. This document serves as an overview and will be updated as facts evolve. This document is not and should not be read as legal advice. Readers should consult an immigration attorney to address their specific circumstances.

Who does the new ban impact?

The expanded ban fully suspends immigration and nonimmigrant visas for citizens of 12 mostly Muslim and African nations: Afghanistan, Burma, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen who do not already have legal status in the United States and who do not fall into any of the other exceptions and exemptions mentioned in the proclamation.

The ban imposes partial restrictions on Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela.

Who is exempt from the ban?

The ban does not apply to individuals who already have:

1. Lawful permanent resident (green card) status
2. A valid U.S. visa issued before June 9, 2025
3. Dual nationality, and enter the United States using a passport from a non-listed country
4. Other limited exceptions as outlined in the proclamation, including:
 - a. Close family members of U.S. citizens or residents
 - b. Certain humanitarian and national interest cases

Persons already granted asylum, refugee status, withholding of removal, or CAT protection are also exempt from the ban. Immediate re-entry for those individuals remains intact.

Please note that even individuals exempt from the ban may experience delays or questioning at the border and should still carry their documents and take precautions before traveling.

COMMON QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NEW TRAVEL BAN:

Q. I am a lawful permanent resident or a visa holder from one of the listed countries. Can I travel abroad?

A. Individuals from the listed countries who already have lawful permanent resident status or a valid visa are exempt from the ban. However, while the ban does not theoretically apply to those who already possess valid immigration status, the administration's separate attempts to target such immigrants based

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on their advocacy for Palestinian rights remains a threat to travelers. CAIR cautions non-citizens, and particularly individuals who do not possess permanent status, from listed countries to avoid unnecessary international travel until more information emerges.

But I must travel abroad.

Speak to an attorney, who may be able to offer targeted guidance for how to minimize risk during your travels.

In general, take precautions in advance to protect your rights, such as familiarizing yourself with your rights as a traveler (see below), ensuring you have redundant means of accessing your key travel and immigration documents, having someone who is not travelling with you who knows your flight times so they can flag any unexplained delays in your travel progress, and securing your electronic devices in advance (see below).

If you must travel, keep physical and electronic copies of all important travel and immigration documents—key among these are your passport and documents proving your status in the U.S.—in a secure and accessible location to ensure you have evidence of your status readily available. Be prepared for delays at the airport, additional scrutiny, and possible denial of re-entry.

Give your itinerary to someone you trust and who will not be travelling with you. Let them know your progress, “I’m on the plane” or “we just landed.” That way, if you experience delays during interactions with TSA or CBP, your attorney can be quickly notified. Similarly, provide electronic copies of your important travel and immigration documents to this person so they can be quickly sent to you or your attorney if needed.

If you are a non-immigrant visa holder and you are denied entry it is important to ask for the reason. There are legal differences between being refused entry, revocation of your visa, or some form of expedited removal or deportation.

If you think someone you know may have been detained, contact an immigration attorney. You can also go to the [ICE detainee locator system and possibly look them up](#).

Q. I am a U.S. citizen from one of the listed countries. Can I travel abroad?

A. While the ban does not apply to U.S. citizens, CAIR continues to encourage citizens to take precautions while traveling. This includes familiarizing yourself with your rights as a traveler, ensuring you have redundant means of accessing your key travel documents, having someone who is not travelling with you who knows your flight times so they can flag any unexplained delays in your travel progress, and taking precautions to secure your electronic devices in advance.

For more information on how to protect yourself while traveling during the Trump administration, see CAIR’s guidance [here](#).

Q. I am a legal permanent resident or valid visa holder from one of the listed countries who is currently abroad. What should I do?

CAIR advises non-citizens who are legal permanent residents or otherwise hold a valid immigration status to immediately consult an immigration attorney and consider traveling home to the United States as soon as possible. You should travel with your valid visa or green card and bring documents showing your U.S. ties, such as school enrollment, job letters, or lease agreements.

Q. What are my rights when I travel?

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SEE: [Your Rights as an Airline Passenger](#)

SEE ALSO: [Your Rights While Travelling \(video\)](#)

SEE ALSO: Know Your Rights with Immigration and Customs Enforcement ([video](#)) ([pdf](#))

Q. I am traveling abroad. What device precautions can I take?

For more information on traveling with devices as a non-citizen or a citizen and how to secure your device during travel, see CAIR's travel guidance [here](#).

In general, CAIR advises travelers to:

1. Remove files and/or social media messaging apps from your device.
2. Use a strong passcode and remove facial recognition from your device.
3. Consider traveling without your primary device and instead with a designated travel device.

Q. What if I am mistreated?

Ask for the names and ID numbers of all the people involved in the incident. Be sure to write down this information. Write a statement of facts immediately after the incident, including date, time, and place. Be sure to include the flight number, the flight date and the name of the airline. Contact CAIR at www.cair.com/report or another civil rights organization if you feel you have been mistreated.

CONCLUSION:

The Trump administration's expanded travel ban represents a renewed and sweeping restriction on immigration that disproportionately targets Muslims and Africans, raising serious concerns about its ideological motivations and human impact. While certain individuals remain exempt, the risks of travel delays, denial of entry, and invasive scrutiny remain real. CAIR urges all impacted persons to exercise extreme caution, consult qualified immigration attorneys before traveling, and remain informed about their rights. Our community must stay vigilant, connected, and empowered to resist discriminatory policies and protect the civil liberties of all people. For legal referrals, resources, or to report abuse, visit www.cair.com.

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