

March 20, 2025, may mark a ban on Iranians entering the U.S., but we have solutions to advocate against such an unjust policy and we are committed to find solutions that uphold fairness, opportunity and National Security.

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity” Psalm 133:1

I. Introduction.

On January 20, 2025, immediately after taking office, President Donald J. Trump signed the executive order "Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats." This order aims to strengthen national security by enhancing vetting and screening measures for all foreign nationals seeking entry into the United States. It directs the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence to collaborate in identifying security threats, reassessing visa programs, and ensuring that individuals admitted into the U.S. align with American values.

The order mandates these agencies to submit a report by March 20, 2025, identifying countries with inadequate screening processes and detailing how many of their nationals have entered the U.S. since January 20, 2021. Based on such report, the President will decide to completely or partially ban the citizens of that country.

(<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-the-united-states-from-foreign-terrorists-and-othersnational-security-and-public-safety-threats/>)

II. Background - National Securities Policies and Executive Orders.

The Fact Sheet on the President’s Proclamation 9645 (originally issued on September 24, 2017, and updated on April 10, 2018) outlines measures to enhance vetting capabilities for detecting security threats at U.S. borders. That policy was built upon Executive Order 13780, requiring foreign governments to share critical identity and security data to assess visa applicants properly. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in coordination with other agencies, conducted a worldwide review and established new baseline information-sharing requirements to strengthen national security.

Countries that failed to meet those security standards faced travel restrictions or enhanced vetting. The order specifically targeted Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen, while Chad and Sudan saw modifications in their restrictions. Iraq, despite being assessed as inadequate, was exempt from restrictions due to its cooperation with U.S. forces. The policy emphasized secure passports, criminal data-sharing, and enhanced traveler scrutiny. The administration committed to ongoing monitoring and diplomatic engagement to ensure compliance and improve global security measures.

(<https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2017/09/24/fact-sheet-presidents-proclamation-enhancing-vetting-capabilities-and-processes>)

(<https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states-2/>)

III. Iran-Specific Restrictions and Reasoning.

National security concerns in the U.S. in 2017 were driven by the need to prevent individuals with ties to dangerous organizations such as ISIS, Hamas, Hezbollah and other extremist groups from entering the U.S. There was a recognized risk that some individuals may engage in violent extremism or radicalization after entry, posing a potential threat to public safety.

Under the executive orders and national security policies in 2017, Iranian nationals faced complete suspension of entry into the U.S. as both immigrants and non-immigrants. Two categories of people were of exception, that being students (F and M visas) and exchange visitors (J visa). The restriction was issued based on two categories:

1. Visa related issues:
 - a. Iran's failure to cooperate with the United States Government in identifying security risks, and
 - b. Iran's failure to receive its nationals subject to final orders of removal from the United States.
2. Terrorist Activities dedicated to the Government of Iran
 - a. Iran's failure to satisfy at least one key risk criterion, is the source of significant terrorist threats, and
 - b. Iran's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism by the Department of State.

To mitigate these risks, the U.S. implemented enhanced vetting measures. This includes rigorous background checks and intelligence screenings to identify and prevent individuals suspected of engaging in or supporting terrorism-related activities. Such efforts are crucial in maintaining national security and ensuring the safety of the public. Yet, despite such vetting measures, in 2017, the U.S. banned Iranians from entering the U.S.

IV. Iranian Nationals in the U.S.: Contributions and Misconceptions

A significant number of Iranian nationals reside in the United States. They make valuable contributions across various sectors, including science, technology, healthcare, education, and business. They are law-abiding residents and citizens who embody American values. High-profile figures—including President Donald Trump, U.S. officials such as the Secretary of State, and influential figures like Elon Musk—have acknowledged the positive role that Iranians play in the U.S.

The human pursuit of liberty, self-determination, and prosperity transcends national borders. Many Iranians, finding themselves at odds with the policies of their own government, seek immigration to the United States for its embodiment of freedom, democracy, and economic

opportunity. A categorical exclusion of Iranian nationals fails to account for the nuanced reality that the governed are not always in concord with their governors.

V. The Human Cost of Restrictions

The 2017 travel ban had a devastating impact on many Iranian families, preventing reunification and creating significant emotional and psychological distress. Talented professionals and students were denied opportunities to contribute to American society, while families were separated for years due to restrictive policies. Research from the University of Hawaii highlights the harmful effects of such bans, emphasizing that they disproportionately affect individuals who pose no security threat. The study found that these policies not only harm families and communities but also undermine the U.S.'s ability to attract skilled professionals and students who contribute to the nation's economic and technological advancement. (<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/fsis/eo/>)

The harm to families was irreparable and irreversible. Please see, <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2017/01/politics/immigration-ban-stories/> as well as <https://www.aclu.org/news/immigrants-rights/the-enduring-harms-of-trumps-muslim-ban> and <https://www.wabe.org/legacy-of-president-trumps-travel-ban-will-be-hard-for-biden-to-erase/> and <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/travel-ban-artists-before-we-were-banned> and many and many more.

Recently, President Trump emphasized the importance of retaining highly educated immigrants, particularly graduates from American universities. By banning or severely restricting Iranian nationals, the U.S. loses access to skilled professionals who could contribute to economic growth, technological advancements, and national competitiveness.

VI. A More Balanced Approach for 2025

As a group of Iranian nationals, we recognize the importance of national security. <https://t.me/IraniansEntry> We fully support thorough vetting processes to ensure that individuals entering the U.S. do not pose security risks. However, imposing blanket bans on Iranian nationals is neither fair nor effective.

Instead of banning all Iranians and viewing each visa applicant case-by-case, in 2025, we should **avoid** any ban on Iranians by allowing them to prove their identity and documents to show that they are not a threat to the National Security of the United States. One critical question arises from the 2017 travel ban of Iranians: If the U.S. government can successfully implement thorough vetting processes for Iranian students (F and M visas) and Exchange visas (J visas) why can't similar processes be extended to other categories, such as family reunification or humanitarian visas?

The existing framework for issuing visas to Iranians demonstrates that the U.S. has the capability to conduct rigorous security screenings while still allowing individuals to enter the country.

A just and strategic immigration policy should safeguard national security without undermining fundamental American values of fairness, inclusion, and opportunity. The current policy risks alienating individuals who seek to contribute positively to American society while doing little to enhance actual security. A nuanced approach—one that differentiates between legitimate security concerns and individuals with no ties to wrongdoing—would serve both the security and economic interests of the United States.

VII. A Collaborative Solution

Recognizing the importance of both national security and fair immigration policies, we—an organized group of Iranian nationals led by attorney Taher Kameli, Esq.—propose practical solutions to address security concerns while ensuring that law-abiding Iranians are not unfairly barred from entering the United States.

While we do not have any standing to make recommendations to the Secretary of State to de-designate Iran as a state sponsor of Terrorism or offer a solution to change the view of the current administration towards the Government of Iran, we encourage the U.S. Government to separate the Government of Iran from Iranian Nationals.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5F0m2vL3Is>

In reality, Iran being designated as a state sponsor of terrorism since 1984, the U.S. government—under both Republican and Democratic administrations—had never imposed an outright ban on Iranian nationals entering the country, until 2017. This is significant because it demonstrates that the actions of the Iranian government do not reflect the will or behavior of the Iranian people. Most Iranians who seek to enter or live in the U.S. do so lawfully and contribute positively to American society.

We invite the authorities to realize that Iran's involvement in terrorist activities within the United States has been relatively limited. <https://usafacts.org/articles/how-many-americans-have-died-from-terrorist-attacks-since-911/> *While Iran has been designated as a state sponsor of terrorism by the U.S. government due to its support for groups like Hezbollah, there is little evidence of Iranian nationals being directly involved in terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. Most terrorism cases linked to Iran involve espionage, plots targeting dissidents, or cyber activities rather than physical attacks and most of those were carried on by non-Iranian Nationals.* <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47321>.

Therefore, our recommendations aim to enhance security measures, improve screening procedures, and establish clear pathways for legitimate travelers, students, professionals, and families. By implementing these policies, the U.S. can uphold its safety standards without compromising its commitment to fairness, inclusion, and economic prosperity.

VII. Proposed Recommendations:

To ease the concerns regarding National Security.

1. Prioritize documents with QR codes for direct verification and authentication.

2. Implement NAJIT-certified translations to ensure double verification of documents. (<https://najit.org/>)
3. Leverage Doctors Without Borders for verified medical records to streamline health-related documentation.
4. To use various Iranian government web pages to authenticate the documents and information related to different professions. The list is available.
5. To use various Iranian government web pages to authenticate the civil and criminal course cases against an individual.
6. Require official certificates of authenticity for military service completion or exemption cards to minimize security concerns.
7. Establish third-party document validation through the U.S. Interests Protection Office in Iran (Switzerland) or neutral countries such as Japan and Oman.
8. Use the World Education Services (WES) for independent and internationally recognized evaluation of educational qualifications.
9. Obtain official seals from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure document legitimacy.
10. Outsource U.S. embassy functions to trusted visa facilitation services, such as VFS Global or Visametric.com, which have a proven track record in handling secure visa applications.
11. Allow Iranian nationals to obtain FBI background checks through FBI-approved channels, ensuring thorough but fair security screenings.
12. To issue an executive order allowing United States agencies and officers to be able to access data saved on .ir domain extensions, to be able to send and receive information by electronic means from individuals or entities within the territory of Iran.
13. To delegate responsibility of the identity/document checks of Iranians to non-governmental U.S. entities with branches/affiliates outside of the U.S. Such entities may act as contractor or service providers to gather all relevant information about the identity/documents and verify such credentials. Some of the private entities working with DHS and Secretary of State: Paragon Systems, ManTech International, AECOM, MVM, Inc., and Blackwater (Academi).

To ease the concern about Iranian Nationals exiting the U.S. prior to expiration of their Non-Immigrant visa.

1. Introduction of Visa Bond/ collateral as an added measure to verify identities and support immigration applications. Visa Bond may also serve as an assurance for the return of a non-immigrant applicant to his/her country.

Assurance for Departure of Iranians who were issued a final order of deportation by the U.S.

2. Offer deported Iranian nationals the option to relocate to visa-free third countries, such as Türkiye or Armenia.
3. Iran requires an original birth certificate of the individual to issue a passport. To Require Iranian Nationals applying for non-immigrant visas to entrust their original birth

certificate with the Interest Section of the U.S. in Iran until their return to Iran. This way the U.S. can easily obtain a passport/re-entry permit to Iran for the deportee.

By adopting these measures, the U.S. can address legitimate security concerns while fostering a more inclusive and equitable immigration system that aligns with its core values. This approach would not only enhance national security but also ensure that the U.S. remains a beacon of hope and opportunity for individuals seeking to contribute to its society and economy.

VIII. How can you help us?

We like to thank you for taking some time off to read this letter. We are asking for your support for avoiding any Travel Ban for Iranians.

Lastly, we are hoping the contents of this letter to reach the following people: 1. President Trump, 2. Secretary of State: Marco Rubio, 3. Attorney General: Pam Bondi, 4. Secretary of Homeland Security: Kristi Noem 5. Director of National Intelligence: Tulsi Gabbard (Not confirmed yet. Vote is expected 2/4/25), and 6. Chief of Staff: Susie Wiles.

These individuals will have tremendous impact on the lives of millions of people who may be banned from entering the United States.

In 2020, President Trump said: “To the brave, long-suffering people of Iran: I've stood with you since the beginning of my Presidency, and my Administration will continue to stand with you.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Concerned members of IraniansEntry group on Telegram