

War vet who claimed Trump's travel ban led to mom's death in Iraq lied about circumstance

By Chris Sommerfeldt

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A war contractor who claimed President Trump's controversial travel ban caused his mother to die in Iraq lied about the circumstance.

Imam Husham Al-Hussainy, head of the Karbalaa Islamic Educational Center in Dearborn, Mich. told [WJBK-TV](#) that Mike Hager's mother died five days before Trump issued the executive order.

He confirmed Hager's 75-year-old mother had been treated in Detroit, where she lived, for kidney disease before traveling to Iraq to visit family.

The Daily News has reached out to Hager for comment.

Hager fled his native Iraq during the Gulf War and lived as a refugee for four years before finally moving to the U.S. and gaining American citizenship.

Hager claimed he was the only one of his family members allowed through at the border, and his mother, stranded at the Iraqi airport, passed away the next day, according to [WJBK-TV](#).

“They destroyed us,” Hager said in a now discredited interview. “I went with my family. I came back by myself. They destroyed our family.”

Trump's executive order has temporarily suspended the issuing of U.S. visas and travel permits to people from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — even though no Americans have been killed on U.S. soil by citizens from either of those seven Muslim-majority nations since 1975, according to [statistics tallied by the Cato Institute](#).

During a signing ceremony at the Pentagon on Friday, Trump claimed the order would “keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the United States of America.”

“We don’t want them here,” the President said. “We only want to admit those into our country who will support our country and love deeply our people.”

The White House did not immediately return a request for comment from the Daily News.

A few years after gaining citizenship, Hager returned to his war-torn home country to work for the U.S. Special Forces as an adviser and interpreter. He said he loves the U.S.

After intense backlash from politicians, civil rights leaders and thousands of protesters across the country, the Trump administration claimed on Sunday that the travel ban shouldn’t affect green card holders.