Forbes

Why President Trump's Controversial Travel Ban Is Unjustified

Niall McCarthy

June 30, 2017

A modified version of President Trump's controversial travel ban went into effect at 8pm ET Thursday, meaning people from six mainly Muslim countries and all refugees face tougher entry to the United States. Travelers without "close" family or business relationships in the U.S. could be denied visas and entry while exceptions could be made for people with "a credible claim of a bona fide relationship" with someone in the U.S. The countries affected by the rule are Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

President Trump has insisted the travel ban is vital for U.S. national security, citing terrorist attacks in Paris, London, Brussels and Berlin as justification for its implementation. However, critics have called it Islamophobic and the original version of the ban led to mass protests and legal challenges before a nationwide temporary restraining order was issued, preventing its enforcement.

In its current form, the travel ban is still unjustified, as a study from the Cato Institute clearly shows. Their research found that between 1975 and 2015, zero nationals from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen were responsible for a fatal terrorist attack on U.S. soil. This is backed up by data from the New America Foundation which shows that since 9/11, no fatal attacks in the U.S. can be attributed to jihadist terrorists from the restricted nations while 13 American citizens and legal permanent residents were responsible for fatal jihadist attacks. The Cato institute also found that the chance of an American being killed by a refugee terrorist is one in 3.6 billion a year.