



## Trump's self-interests

January 10, 2020

In response to the Dec. 29 letter "Terrorists," 15 of 19 9/11 hijackers were Saudis. Saudi's crown prince sanctioned the execution of Khashoggi. Yemen is a catastrophe. Many human rights abuses continue.

Trump blocks or circumvents congressional censure. Trump has made clear that human rights and even murder will be overlooked if dictators have money to spare. Commercial deals take precedence over human rights, justice and democracy.

Trump's travel ban is based on fear-mongering. It emboldens bigots in the U.S. and stokes anti-American sentiment abroad.

Chances of an American being murdered in a terrorist attack by a refugee are about 1 in 3.86 billion per year. The annual chance of being murdered in an attack by an illegal immigrant is zero. Foreign-born terrorism is a manageable threat given the huge economic benefits of immigration and the relatively smaller costs of terrorism (Cato Institute).

Studies find that immigrants are less likely to be incarcerated than native-born Americans. Other studies find that crime rates are lowest in states with the highest immigration growth rates, that states with larger numbers of undocumented immigrants tend to have lower crime rates.

Our Founding Fathers had the foresight to create a Congress with the duty to perform oversight of the executive branch. The Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized that Congress's power to investigate is "coextensive with the power to legislate."

Yes, America, we must wake up to how we must protect our democracy against the blatant manipulation of facts, gas-lighting, etc., that serve Trump's self-interests.

**K. Heid**, Ocala