



## **NSU president sends email to campus on Trump order**

Sean Rowley

February 1, 2017

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — When President Trump issued an executive order temporarily banning citizens of seven countries from entering the U.S., much of the backlash focused on the impact of the order on Muslims and people already legally residing under green cards.

In the academic world, many colleges and universities expressed concern about the impact on students who are in the U.S. on visas, or guest faculty and scholars.

Nationwide, many universities advised their foreign students not to leave the country, due to the risk of not being allowed to return. At least four federal judges have ordered stays against parts of Trump's order.

Dr. Steve Turner, president of Northeastern State University, said in a university-wide email that no NSU students, scholars or faculty are affected by the order.

"I'm sure many in our NSU community, regardless of their country of origin, are concerned by this action," Turner said. "As a university that traces our roots to the Cherokee National Seminary, we have a lengthy heritage and strong continuing commitment to fully support and respect the rights of all individuals."

Turner urged those on campus with concerns to contact International Programs or Student Affairs.

"Please understand that NSU is dedicated to ensuring that all of our students, visiting scholars, faculty, and staff enjoy all the rights guaranteed under the laws and constitution of the United States and the State of Oklahoma," he said. "Northeastern State University is closely monitoring the impact of the executive order and is ready to take appropriate action, if needed, as the situation develops."

What does Trump's executive order, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," do?

1. It suspends U.S. refugee admissions for 120 days.
2. It suspends admission of Syrian refugees indefinitely.
3. Entry from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen is banned for 90 days.
4. It temporarily banned entry of dual-nationals from the seven countries, but Customs and Border Patrol ordered travelers be "treated according to the document they present," allowing, say, a Syrian-British dual citizen to enter with a U.K. passport.
5. It prioritizes admission of refugees who are religious minorities. All seven countries are Muslim majority, meaning non-Muslim refugees get first consideration for admission.
6. It reduces the total number of refugees to be admitted to 50,000 from 110,000.

Immigration attorneys crowding around affected travelers say Trump's order, implemented with great confusion and in some cases resulting in detention of legal residents, is sloppy and creates a "target-rich" environment for lawsuits.

The shiniest light for challenge is the Immigration Act of 1965, which bars the president from refusing visas to immigrants based on nationality. Applicants must not "be discriminated against in the issuance of an immigrant visa because of the person's race, sex, nationality, place of birth, or place of residence."

Critics say refusing entry to refugees fleeing war or persecution is inhumane, and that U.S. vetting of refugees is already exhaustive. The 18- to 24-month process includes fingerprinting and retina scans. It is much easier to acquire a tourist visa within two months with only an interview and background check. If a citizen of France, the United Kingdom, or one of 36 other countries, the visa can be waived for a brief visit to the U.S. with only a passport, customs screening, and a security database check.

Detractors also wonder who Trump's order targets exactly - besides Muslims with whom he has no business ties.

The libertarian Cato Institute reports that citizens of the seven targeted countries have killed precisely zero Americans on U.S. soil since 1975. Seventeen nationals from Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq and Yemen have been convicted of planning or attempting terrorist acts in the U.S. since 1975, but no Syrian or Libyan.

Among 3.25 million refugees admitted, 20 have been convicted of plotting or attempting terrorism in the U.S. Three Americans have been killed - by Cuban refugees back in the 1970s. Cato immigration expert Alex Nowrasteh said Trump's order tackles "a phantom menace."

It is not a foregone conclusion that legal challenges to the order will succeed, despite the scent of a "Muslim ban." The president has plenty of room to set immigration policy.

During the country's history, there have been bans or quotas based on ethnicity or nation of origin, though all are now overturned. The president has latitude under the Immigration and

Nationality Act of 1952 to ban certain persons from entering the U.S., and there are cases where the Supreme Court acquiesced. There is precedent to support a ban of people for their political beliefs. In *Kleindienst v. Mandel* (1972), denial of a non-immigrant visa to a Marxist journalist from Belgium was upheld.