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## **TRUMP'S NEW TRAVEL BAN BLOCKS MIGRANTS FROM SIX NATIONS, SPARING IRAQ**

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NY Times (07 March 2017)

President Trump signed an executive order on Monday blocking citizens of six predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States, the most significant hardening of immigration policy in generations, even with changes intended to blunt legal and political opposition.

The order was revised to avoid the tumult and protests that engulfed the nations airports after Mr. Trump signed his first immigration directive on Jan. 27. That order was ultimately blocked by a federal appeals court.

The new order continued to impose a 90-day ban on travelers, but it removed Iraq, a redaction requested by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who feared it would hamper coordination to defeat the Islamic State, according to administration officials.

It also exempts permanent residents and current visa holders, and drops language offering preferential status to persecuted religious minorities, a provision widely interpreted as favoring other religious groups over Muslims. In addition, it reversed an indefinite ban on refugees from Syria, replacing it with a 120-day freeze that requires review and renewal.

Reaction to Trumps New Travel Ban

Responses to President Trumps new executive order on immigration have been varied. By THE NEW YORK TIMES on Publish Date March 7, 2017. Photo by Elaine Thompson/Associated Press. Watch in Times Video »

But the heart of the sweeping executive action is still intact, reflecting Mr. Trumps America first pledge to safeguard against what he has portrayed as a hidden influx of terrorists and criminals □ a hard-line campaign promise that resonated deeply with white working-class voters.

The new order retains central elements of the old one, cutting the number of refugees admitted to the United States each year to 50,000 from about 110,000. Mr. Trump is also leaving open the possibility of expanding the ban to other countries, or even putting Iraq back on the banned list if the countrys leaders fail to comply with a requirement that they increase intelligence sharing, officials said.

Unregulated, unvetted travel is not a universal privilege, especially when national security is at stake, said John F. Kelly, the homeland security secretary, appearing alongside Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson and Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the Ronald Reagan Federal Building in Washington on Monday.

Mr. Kelly said the order was now prospective and applied only to foreign nationals outside of the United States who do not have a valid visa. None of the men took questions.

The Trump administration quickly tried to break the legal logjam, filing papers in United States District Court in Washington late on Monday seeking to lift an order blocking the fulfillment of the initial ban.

But the presidents revisions did little to halt criticism from Democrats and immigrant rights advocates, who predicted a renewed fight in the courts.

The Senate Democratic leader, Chuck Schumer of New York, described the new order as a watered-down ban that was still meanspirited and un-American.

Margaret Huang, the executive director of Amnesty International USA, said in a statement that the new order would cause extreme fear and uncertainty for thousands of families by, once again, putting anti-Muslim hatred into policy.

The new measure will be phased in over the next two weeks to avoid the frenetic, same-day execution of the order in January, which prompted protests across the country and left tearful families stranded at airports abroad and in the United States.

The redrafted order, delayed by a week so it would not overshadow Mr. Trumps address to a joint session of Congress last Tuesday, represented a recognition that the rushed first attempt at the ban did not pass muster legally or politically.

Administration officials privately conceded that the initial version of the order was a political debacle that damaged Mr. Trumps nascent presidency. But they were much more sanguine about the second order, arguing that the new, multiagency review process could be used in the future to bend Mr. Trumps uncompromising messages toward Washingtons bureaucratic realities.

Mr. Trump signed the first ban with great fanfare, in front of reporters, at the Pentagon. We dont want them here, Mr. Trump said of Islamist terrorists. We want to ensure that we are not admitting into our country the very threats our soldiers are fighting overseas. We only want to admit those into our country who will support our country, and love deeply our people.

This time, the White House issued a photograph of the president signing the order alone at his desk in the Oval Office.

Justice Department lawyers said the revisions rendered moot legal cases against the original travel ban. But opponents said the removal of a section that had granted preferential treatment to victims of religious persecution was a cosmetic change that did nothing to alter the orders prejudicial purpose. Immigrant rights lawyers had argued that the provision was intended to discriminate against Muslims, pointing to recent statements by Mr. Trump.

This is a retreat, but lets be clear □ its just another run at a Muslim ban, said Omar Jadwat, the director of the Immigrants Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, one of the groups that sued to stop the first order. They cant unring the bell.

After issuing the new travel ban on Monday, the Trump administration filed a notice of the new executive order to halt the legal challenge that is in place for the previous language.

Eric T. Schneiderman, the attorney general of New York and a plaintiff in a suit seeking to block

the first order, said his office was reviewing the new ban, adding, I stand ready to litigate □ again — in order to protect New Yorks families, institutions and economy.

Congressional Republicans, who were split over the first travel ban, had a more muted reaction. But Speaker Paul D. Ryan, who backed the first order, issued a statement saying the revised order advances our shared goal of protecting the homeland.

Citizens of Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen, Syria and Libya will face a 90-day suspension of visa processing as the administration analyzes how to strengthen vetting procedures, according to a homeland security summary of the order.

The removal of Iraq from the list came after talks with security officials in Baghdad and at the urging of Mr. Mattis and State Department officials, who have been in communication with Iraqi officials alarmed that the ban will turn public sentiment in their country against the United States.

On the basis of negotiations that have taken place between the government of Iraq and the U.S. Department of State in the last month, Iraq will increase cooperation with the U.S. government on the vetting of its citizens applying for a visa to travel to the United States, homeland security officials wrote in a fact sheet given to reporters.

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The timing of the ban seemed intended to reset the White House political narrative, after a turbulent week that began with Mr. Trumps well-received address to Congress. That success was quickly overshadowed by the controversies over Mr. Sessions failure to inform the Senate of his contacts with the Russian ambassador and Mr. Trumps unsupported accusation that President Barack Obama tapped Mr. Trumps phones during the 2016 campaign.

Critics say that Mr. Trumps vow to impose extreme vetting on migrants, especially those fleeing the war in Syria, disregards already stringent screening measures, and the fact that none of the recent terrorist attacks or mass shootings on American soil were perpetrated by people from the nations listed in the ban.

Last week, The Associated Press reported that it had obtained a draft homeland security assessment concluding that citizenship was an unlikely indicator of a threat.

Homeland security officials, speaking to reporters by telephone on Monday, pushed back against that news report, arguing that it was culled from public sources and excluded classified information that paints a more dangerous picture.

An official speaking on the call said the Justice Department had identified 300 refugees who were being investigated for their links to Islamist terrorist groups or for holding pro-Islamic State positions. Some of those people already have permanent resident status, the official said.

But homeland security and Justice Department officials declined to provide further details, and would not say how many of the 300 people being investigated came from the countries covered by the revised travel ban.