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Trump Extends New Travel Restrictions to Eight Countries

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Travelers to the United States from eight countries face new restrictions under a document that President Donald Trump signed on Sunday.

The new restrictions are to take effect on October 18. They will affect citizens from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, Chad, North Korea and Venezuela.

The Trump administration described the new measures in a statement on Sunday. It said these countries have refused to share information about terrorism and other issues with the United States.

The new measures do not apply to Sudan. Iraq also does not face entry restrictions, although travelers may face greater “**screening** security.” Those two countries had been included in earlier versions of Trump’s travel bans.

Countries added to travel restrictions list

Chad, North Korea and Venezuela are new additions to the travel ban.

The presidential **proclamation** states that, “North Korea does not cooperate with the United States government in any respect and fails to satisfy all information-sharing requirements.”

Venezuela was included for failing to cooperate in showing if travelers present “national security or public-safety threats.” U.S. officials also said Venezuela does not willingly receive Venezuelans **deported** from the U.S.

The Trump administration called Chad a “valuable and important” partner in fighting terrorism. But it noted that the country had not shared terrorism-related and other public safety information.

The statement says the restrictions are **conditional** and that the countries can take actions to ease the measures.

Human rights groups react

Human rights groups largely disapproved of the new ban.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a Muslim civil rights group based in Washington D.C. In a statement, the group denounced the policy, saying it was, in the group’s words, part of the administration’s “ugly white supremacist agenda.”

The London-based rights group Amnesty International also criticized the new restrictions. It said families had been torn apart since the last travel ban. It also said the ban unfairly targeted “whole nations of people” because of “the crimes of a few.” The group said the action did not keep anyone safe.

In the proclamation, the president said: “The restrictions announced are tough and **tailored**, and they send a message to foreign governments that they must work with us to **enhance** security.”

Trump released an executive order in March that placed travel restrictions on six Muslim-majority countries.

However, that order was immediately disputed and suspended in U.S. courts. Critics said the ban unfairly targeted Muslims.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court permitted parts of the order to go into effect.

The earlier order placed entry restrictions on citizens of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Citizens of those countries were required to have a

“credible claim of a **bona fide** relationship with a person or **entity** in the United States.”

Two of the three new countries placed on the travel ban list -- North Korea and Venezuela -- are not Muslim-majority. Chad is estimated to be majority Muslim. However, it has large populations of other religious groups, as well.

I'm Mario Ritter

Smita Nordwall reported this story for VOA News. Mario Ritter adapted it for VOA Learning English with additional materials. Ashley Thompson was the editor.

Words in This Story

screening *-n.* the act of examining people to see if they can do something

proclamation *-n.* a statement by a public official calling for some action

deport *-v.* to cause a person who is not a citizen to leave a country

conditional *-adj.* describes something that will happen only if something else happens

tailor *-v.* to make something fit a certain situation, person, group or country

enhance *-v.* to improve or increase

bona fide *-adj.* in good faith

entity *-n.* something that exists separately, such as a business, organization, government or political groups

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