

Honorable James L. Robart

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

Case No.: 2:17-cv-00135-JLR

Juweiya Abdiaziz ALI; A.F.A., a minor;  
Reema Khaled DAHMAN; G.E., a minor;  
Jaffer Akhlaq HUSSAIN; Seyedehfatemeh  
HAMEDANI; Olad Issa OMAR; Faduma  
Olad ISSA; F.O.I., a minor; and S.O.I., a  
minor; on behalf of themselves as individuals  
and on behalf of others similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Donald TRUMP, President of the United States  
of America; Jefferson B. SESSIONS, Attorney  
General of the United States; U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE; Rex W.  
TILLERSON, Secretary of State; U.S.  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY; John F. KELLY, Secretary of  
Homeland Security; U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND  
IMMIGRATION SERVICES; Lori  
SCIALABBA, Acting Director of USCIS;  
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION;  
Kevin K. McALEENAN, Acting  
Commissioner of CBP; OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL  
INTELLIGENCE; Michael DEMPSEY,  
Acting Director of National Intelligence,

Defendants.

**DECLARATION OF KRISTIN  
MACLEOD-BALL IN SUPPORT OF  
PLAINTIFFS' EMERGENCY MOTION  
FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING  
ORDER AND PRELIMINARY  
INJUNCTION**

1  
2 I, Kristin Macleod-Ball, declare as follows:

3  
4 1) I am counsel of record for Plaintiffs in this case. I submit this declaration in support  
5 of Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order and a Preliminary  
6 Injunction.

7 2) I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, and, if called as a witness, I  
8 could and would testify completely as set forth below.

9 3) Where the following exhibits include portions of online comment sections, I have  
10 redacted obscenities appearing in the comment sections.

11 4) Attached as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of a printout from the  
12 [www.donaldjtrump.com](http://www.donaldjtrump.com) website, entitled "Donald J. Trump Statement on Preventing Muslim  
13 Immigration," December 7, 2015. I accessed the statement on March 13, 2017 at  
14 [https://www.donaldjtrump.com/press-releases/donald-j.-trump-statement-on-preventing-muslim-](https://www.donaldjtrump.com/press-releases/donald-j.-trump-statement-on-preventing-muslim-immigration)  
15 [immigration](https://www.donaldjtrump.com/press-releases/donald-j.-trump-statement-on-preventing-muslim-immigration).

16 5) Attached as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of a tweet of Defendant Donald J.  
17 Trump (@realDonaldTrump), published on Twitter, December 10, 2015. I accessed the tweet on  
18 March 13, 2017 at <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/674934005725331456>.

19 6) Attached as Exhibit C is a true and correct copy of an article from Politico by Nick  
20 Gass entitled "Trump Not Bothered by Comparisons to Hitler," December 8, 2015. I accessed  
21 the article on March 13, 2017 at [http://www.politico.com/trump-muslims-shutdown-hitler-](http://www.politico.com/trump-muslims-shutdown-hitler-comparison)  
22 [comparison](http://www.politico.com/trump-muslims-shutdown-hitler-comparison).

23 7) Attached as Exhibit D is a true and correct copy of an article from CNN by  
24 Theodore Schleifer, entitled "Donald Trump: 'I think Islam hates us,'" March 10, 2016. I  
25 accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at [http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/09/politics/donald-](http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/09/politics/donald-trump-islam-hates-us/)  
26 [trump-islam-hates-us/](http://www.cnn.com/2016/03/09/politics/donald-trump-islam-hates-us/).  
27  
28

8) Attached as Exhibit E is a true and correct copy of a tweet of Defendant Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), published on Twitter, March 22, 2016. I accessed the tweet on March 13, 2017 at <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/712473816614772736>.

9) Attached as Exhibit F is a true and correct copy of a printout of the transcript of a June 13, 2016 speech of Defendant Donald Trump, entitled “Donald J. Trump Addresses Terrorism, Immigration, and National Security.” I accessed the transcript on March 13, 2017 at <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/press-releases/donald-j.-trump-addresses-terrorism-immigration-and-national-security>.

10) Attached as Exhibit G is a true and correct copy of a tweet of Defendant Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), published on Twitter, July 25, 2016. I accessed the tweet on March 13, 2017 at <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/758872422028148740>.

11) Attached as Exhibit H is a true and correct copy of a printout of a page from the Terrorism Awareness Project website from February 3, 2007, as archived on [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org). I accessed the page on March 13, 2017 at <https://web.archive.org/web/20070203001212/http://www.terrorismawareness.org/about/3/about-the-project?pg=2>.

12) Attached as Exhibit I is a true and correct copy of an article from CNN by Andrew Kaczynski and Chris Massie, entitled “In College, Trump Aide Stephen Miller Led Controversial ‘Terrorism Awareness Project’ Warning of ‘Islamofascism,’” February 15, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at available at <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/15/politics/kfile-stephen-miller-terrorism-awareness>.

13) Attached as Exhibit J is a true and correct copy of an article from CNN by Andrew Kaczynski, entitled “Steve Bannon in 2010: ‘Islam is not a religion of peace. Islam is a religion of submission,’” January 31, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at <http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/31/politics/kfile-bannon-on-islam/>.

1 14) Attached as Exhibit K is a true and correct copy of an article from the New York  
2 Times by Scott Shane, entitled "Stephen Bannon in 2014: We Are at War with Radical Islam,"  
3 February 1, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
4 [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/02/01/us/stephen-bannon-war-with-radical-](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/02/01/us/stephen-bannon-war-with-radical-islam.html)  
5 [islam.html](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/02/01/us/stephen-bannon-war-with-radical-islam.html).

6  
7 15) Attached as Exhibit L is a true and correct copy of an article from Newsweek by  
8 Reuters, entitled "Bannon Driving Force Behind Trump's Hardline Immigration Ban, Officials  
9 Say," January 30, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
10 [http://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-steve-bannon-immigration-ban-immigration-muslim-](http://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-steve-bannon-immigration-ban-immigration-muslim-550415)  
11 [550415](http://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-steve-bannon-immigration-ban-immigration-muslim-550415).

12 16) Attached as Exhibit M is a true and correct copy of an article from CNN by Dan  
13 Merica, entitled "Trump Signs Executive Order to Keep Out 'Radical Islamic Terrorists,'" January 30, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
14 [http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/27/politics/trump-plans-to-sign-executive-action-on-refugees-](http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/27/politics/trump-plans-to-sign-executive-action-on-refugees-extreme-vetting/)  
15 [extreme-vetting/](http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/27/politics/trump-plans-to-sign-executive-action-on-refugees-extreme-vetting/).

16  
17 17) Attached as Exhibit N is a true and correct copy of an article from CBN News by  
18 David Brody, entitled "Brody File Exclusive: President Trump Says Persecuted Christians Will  
19 Be Given Priority As Refugees," January 27, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
20 [http://www1.cbn.com/thebrodyfile/archive/2017/01/27/brody-file-exclusive-president-trump-](http://www1.cbn.com/thebrodyfile/archive/2017/01/27/brody-file-exclusive-president-trump-says-persecuted-christians-will-be-given-priority-as-refugees)  
21 [says-persecuted-christians-will-be-given-priority-as-refugees](http://www1.cbn.com/thebrodyfile/archive/2017/01/27/brody-file-exclusive-president-trump-says-persecuted-christians-will-be-given-priority-as-refugees).

22 18) Attached as Exhibit O is a true and correct copy of an article from the New York  
23 Times by Michael D. Shear and Helene Cooper, entitled "Trump Bars Refugees and Citizens of  
24 7 Muslim Countries," January 27, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
25 <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/27/us/politics/trump-syrian-refugees.html>.



1 19) Attached as Exhibit P is a true and correct copy of a tweet of Defendant Donald J.  
 2 Trump (@realDonaldTrump), published on Twitter, January 29, 2017. I accessed the tweet on  
 3 March 13, 2017 at <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/825721153142521858>.

4 20) Attached as Exhibit Q is a true and correct copy of an article from the Washington  
 5 Post by Amy B. Wang, entitled “Trump Asked for a ‘Muslim ban,’ Giuliani Says—And Ordered  
 6 a Commission to Do It ‘legally,’” January 29, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
 7 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/01/29/trump-asked-for-a-muslim-ban-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/01/29/trump-asked-for-a-muslim-ban-giuliani-says-and-ordered-a-commission-to-do-it-legally/?utm_term=.2cd663c28df1)  
 8 [giuliani-says-and-ordered-a-commission-to-do-it-legally/?utm\\_term=.2cd663c28df1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/01/29/trump-asked-for-a-muslim-ban-giuliani-says-and-ordered-a-commission-to-do-it-legally/?utm_term=.2cd663c28df1).

9 21) Attached as Exhibit R is a true and correct copy of an article from CBS News by  
 10 Rebecca Shabad, entitled “Donald Trump Says He’s Expanding His Muslim Ban,” July 25,  
 11 2016. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at [http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-says-hes-expanding-muslim-ban)  
 12 [says-hes-expanding-muslim-ban](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-says-hes-expanding-muslim-ban).

13 22) Attached as Exhibit S is a true and correct copy of an article from Reuters by Mica  
 14 Rosenberg and Lesley Wroughton, entitled “Trump’s Travel Ban Has Revoked 60,000 Visas for  
 15 Now,” February 3, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
 16 <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-visas-idUSKBN15I2EW>.

17 23) Attached as Exhibit T is a true and correct copy of a tweet of Defendant Donald J.  
 18 Trump (@realDonaldTrump), published on Twitter, February 6, 2017. I accessed the tweet on  
 19 March 13, 2017 at <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/828797801630937089>.

20 24) Attached as Exhibit U is a true and correct copy of an article from the Associated  
 21 Press by Vivian Salama and Alicia A. Caldwell, entitled “AP Exclusive: DHS Report Disputes  
 22 Threat from Banned Nations,” February 24, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
 23 [http://bigstory.ap.org/article/39f1f8e4ceed4a30a4570f693291c866/dhs-intel-report-disputes-](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/39f1f8e4ceed4a30a4570f693291c866/dhs-intel-report-disputes-threat-posed-travel-ban-nations)  
 24 [threat-posed-travel-ban-nations](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/39f1f8e4ceed4a30a4570f693291c866/dhs-intel-report-disputes-threat-posed-travel-ban-nations).

25 25) Attached as Exhibit V is a true and correct copy of a printout of the transcript of a  
 26 February 16, 2017 news conference of Defendant Donald Trump. I accessed the transcript on  
 27  
 28

1 March 13, 2017 at [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/16/us/politics/donald-trump-press-](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/16/us/politics/donald-trump-press-conference-transcript.html)  
 2 [conference-transcript.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/16/us/politics/donald-trump-press-conference-transcript.html).

3 26) Attached as Exhibit W is a true and correct copy of an article from Bloomberg by  
 4 Jennifer Jacobs, entitled “Trump Delaying Revamped Immigration Order until Next Week,  
 5 Official Says,” February 22, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
 6 [https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-02-22/trump-said-to-delay-revamped-](https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-02-22/trump-said-to-delay-revamped-immigration-order-until-next-week)  
 7 [immigration-order-until-next-week](https://www.bloomberg.com/politics/articles/2017-02-22/trump-said-to-delay-revamped-immigration-order-until-next-week).

8 27) Attached as Exhibit X is a true and correct copy of a printout of the transcript of a  
 9 February 18, 2017 speech by Defendant, entitled “Remarks at Rally in Melbourne, Florida.” I  
 10 accessed the transcript on March 13, 2017 at  
 11 [http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/national/read-full-transcript-trump-rally-speech-](http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/national/read-full-transcript-trump-rally-speech-florida/DeDCpoNEKLQmWcIKndWB0M/)  
 12 [florida/DeDCpoNEKLQmWcIKndWB0M/](http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/national/read-full-transcript-trump-rally-speech-florida/DeDCpoNEKLQmWcIKndWB0M/).

13 28) Attached as Exhibit Y is a true and correct copy of a printout of the transcript of a  
 14 February 23, 2017 White House Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sean Spicer. I accessed the  
 15 transcript on March 13, 2017 at [https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/23/press-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/23/press-briefing-press-secretary-sean-spicer-2232017-15)  
 16 [briefing-press-secretary-sean-spicer-2232017-15](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/23/press-briefing-press-secretary-sean-spicer-2232017-15).

17 29) Attached as Exhibit Z is a true and correct copy of a printout of the transcript of a  
 18 February 21, 2017 White House Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sean Spicer. I accessed the  
 19 transcript on March 13, 2017 at [https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/21/press-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/21/press-briefing-press-secretary-sean-spicer-2212017-13)  
 20 [briefing-press-secretary-sean-spicer-2212017-13](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/21/press-briefing-press-secretary-sean-spicer-2212017-13).

21 30) Attached as Exhibit AA is a true and correct copy of a printout of the transcript of a  
 22 February 22, 2017 White House Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sean Spicer. I accessed the  
 23 transcript on March 13, 2017 at [https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/22/press-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/22/press-briefing-press-secretary-sean-spicer-2222017-14)  
 24 [briefing-press-secretary-sean-spicer-2222017-14](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/02/22/press-briefing-press-secretary-sean-spicer-2222017-14).

25 31) Attached as Exhibit BB is a true and correct copy of a printout of a “rush transcript”  
 26 of a February 21, 2017 Fox News television broadcast, entitled “The First 100 Days.” I accessed  
 27  
 28

the transcript on March 10, 2017 at <http://www.foxnews.com/transcript/2017/02/21/miller-new-order-will-be-responsive-to-judicial-ruling-rep-ron-desantis>.

32) Attached as Exhibit CC is a true and correct copy of a printout of the transcript of a March 6, 2017 White House Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Sean Spicer. I accessed the transcript on March 13, 2017 at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/06/press-gaggle-press-secretary-sean-spicer>.

33) Attached as Exhibit DD is a true and correct copy of a tweet of Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), published on Twitter, January 30, 2017. I accessed the tweet on March 13, 2017 at <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/826060143825666051>.

34) Attached as Exhibit EE is a true and correct copy of an article from ABC NEWS by Riley Beggin, entitled “Protesters Caused ‘Only Disruption’ Surrounding Immigration Order: White House Advisor,” February 2, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/protesters-caused-disruption-surrounding-immigration-order-white-house/story?id=45233560>.

35) Attached as Exhibit FF is a true and correct copy of a tweet by Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), published on Twitter, February 4, 2017. I accessed the tweet on March 13, 2017 at <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/827996357252243456>.

36) Attached as Exhibit GG is a true and correct copy of an article from the BOSTON GLOBE by Matt Zapotosky, “John Kelly testifies travel ban should have been delayed,” February 7, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at <https://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2017/02/07/john-kelly-testifies-there-are-plans-add-nations-travel-ban/vArt8PFWA8TYWdRtgjTeUN/story.html>.

37) Attached as Exhibit HH is a true and correct copy of any article from the GUARDIAN by Julia Carrie Wong, entitled “Trump to sign new immigration policy after multiple court defeats of travel ban,” February 16, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at

1 [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/feb/16/trump-travel-ban-replacement-us-](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/feb/16/trump-travel-ban-replacement-us-immigration)  
 2 [immigration](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/feb/16/trump-travel-ban-replacement-us-immigration).

3 38) Attached as Exhibit II is a true and correct copy of an article from CNN by Laura  
 4 Jarrett et al., entitled “Trump delays new travel ban after well-reviewed speech,” March 1, 2017.  
 5 I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at [http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/28/politics/trump-](http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/28/politics/trump-travel-ban-visa-holders/)  
 6 [travel-ban-visa-holders/](http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/28/politics/trump-travel-ban-visa-holders/).

7 39) Attached as Exhibit JJ is a true and correct copy of an article from THE OREGONIAN  
 8 by Lynne Terry, entitled “Family of Portland’s bomb suspect, Mohamed Mohamud, fled chaos in  
 9 Somalia for new life in America,” December 4, 2010. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017  
 10 at [http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2010/12/suspect\\_in\\_portland\\_bomb\\_plot.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2010/12/suspect_in_portland_bomb_plot.html).

11 40) Attached as Exhibit KK is a true and correct copy of a printout from the Department  
 12 of Homeland Security website, entitled “Q&A: Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist  
 13 Entry Into The United States,” March 6, 2017. I accessed the Q&A on March 13, 2017 ay  
 14 <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/03/06/qa-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states>.

15 41) Attached as Exhibit LL is a true and correct copy of an article posted on  
 16 YAHOO.COM, entitled “Iran keeps ban on US visitors in response to Trump order,” March 7,  
 17 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at [https://www.yahoo.com/news/iran-keeps-ban-](https://www.yahoo.com/news/iran-keeps-ban-us-visitors-response-trump-order-104300662.html)  
 18 [us-visitors-response-trump-order-104300662.html](https://www.yahoo.com/news/iran-keeps-ban-us-visitors-response-trump-order-104300662.html).

19 42) Attached as Exhibit MM is a true and correct copy of an article from WIRED by Issie  
 20 Lapowsky, entitled “Online Petition to Ban Trump Is Now the UK’s Most Popular,” December  
 21 10, 2015. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at [https://www.wired.com/2015/12/online-](https://www.wired.com/2015/12/online-petition-to-ban-trump-is-now-the-uks-most-popular/)  
 22 [petition-to-ban-trump-is-now-the-uks-most-popular/](https://www.wired.com/2015/12/online-petition-to-ban-trump-is-now-the-uks-most-popular/).

23 43) Attached as Exhibit NN is a true and correct copy of the Joint Declaration of  
 24 Madeleine K. Albright, *et al.*, submitted in *Washington v. Trump*, No. 17-35105 (9th Cir. 2017),  
 25 ECF 28-2. I accessed the PACER docket containing this entry on March 13, 2017.  
 26  
 27  
 28

1 44) Attached as Exhibit OO is a true and correct copy of an article from the Times by  
2 Jeffrey Gettleman, entitled "State Dept. Dissent Cable on Trump's Ban Draws 1,000 Signatures,"  
3 January 31, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
4 [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/31/world/americas/state-dept-dissent-cable-trump-](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/31/world/americas/state-dept-dissent-cable-trump-immigration-order.html)  
5 [immigration-order.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/31/world/americas/state-dept-dissent-cable-trump-immigration-order.html).

6 45) Attached as Exhibit PP is a true and correct copy of a report by the Department of  
7 Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis, entitled "Most Foreign-born, US-based  
8 Violent Extremists Radicalized after Entering Homeland," March 1, 2017. I accessed the report  
9 on March 13, 2017 at [http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/trms-exclusive-dhs-](http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/trms-exclusive-dhs-document-undermines-trump-case-travel-ban)  
10 [document-undermines-trump-case-travel-ban](http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow-show/trms-exclusive-dhs-document-undermines-trump-case-travel-ban).

11 46) Attached as Exhibit QQ is a true and correct copy of an article from CATO Institute  
12 by Alex Nowrasteh, entitled "Little National Security Benefit to Trump's Executive order on  
13 Immigration," January 25, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
14 <https://www.cato.org/blog/little-national-security-benefit-trumps-executive-order-immigration>.

15 47) Attached as Exhibit RR is a true and correct copy of an article from CNN by Kelly  
16 Daniella Diaz, entitled "There are '13 or 14' more countries with questionable vetting  
17 procedures," March 7, 2017. I accessed the article on March 13, 2017 at  
18 <http://www.cnn.com/2017/03/06/politics/john-kelly-travel-ban-muslim-countries/>.

19 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States that the foregoing is  
20 true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

21 Executed in Boston, MA on the 13th day of March, 2017.

22 By:

23 s/Kristin Macleod-Ball  
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Kristin Macleod-Ball  
National Immigration Project of the National  
Lawyers Guild  
14 Beacon Street, Suite 602  
Boston, MA 02108

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on March 13, 2017, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the attorneys of record for all Defendants.

Executed in Seattle, Washington, on March 13, 2017.

s/Glenda Aldana

Glenda M. Aldana Madrid, WSBA No. 46987

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

615 Second Avenue, Suite 400

Seattle, WA 98104

(206) 957-8646

(206) 587-4025 (fax)

# EXHIBIT A



INSTAGRAM

FACEBOOK

TWITTER



NEWS

GET INVOLVED

ABOUT US

TN RALLY

SHOP

CONTRIBUTE

- DECEMBER 07, 2015 -

## DONALD J. TRUMP STATEMENT ON PREVENTING MUSLIM IMMIGRATION

(New York, NY) December 7th, 2015, -- Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on. According to Pew Research, among others, there is great hatred towards Americans by large segments of the Muslim population. Most recently, a poll from the [Center for Security Policy](#) released data showing "25% of those polled agreed that violence against Americans here in the United States is justified as a part of the global jihad" and 51% of those polled, "agreed that Muslims in America should have the choice of being governed according to Shariah." Shariah authorizes such atrocities as murder against non-believers who won't convert, beheadings and more unthinkable acts that pose great harm to Americans, especially women.

Mr. Trump stated, "Without looking at the various polling data, it is obvious to anybody the hatred is beyond comprehension. Where this hatred comes from and why we will have to determine. Until we are able to determine and understand this problem and the dangerous threat it poses, our country cannot be the victims of horrendous attacks by people that believe only in Jihad, and have no sense of reason or respect for human life. If I win the election for President, we are going to Make America Great Again." - *Donald J. Trump*

Next Release: [Donald J. Trump Announces State Directors in Massachusetts and Mississippi](#)

Previous Release: [Donald J. Trump Announces Statewide Leadership Team in Oklahoma](#)

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NORTHWEST IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROJECT  
[APRIL 2015](#) 615 Second Ave., Ste. 400  
Seattle, WA 98104  
206-957-8611  
[MARCH 2015](#)

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# EXHIBIT B



**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump

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The United Kingdom is trying hard to disguise their massive Muslim problem. Everybody is wise to what is happening, very sad! Be honest.

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5,998

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9,783



4:49 AM - 10 Dec 2015



3.3K



6.0K

9.8K



Astronomyy @astronomyy · 10 Dec 2015  
[@realDonaldTrump](#) shut the up



7

52



Greg Diamond @thegregdiamond · 10 Dec 2015  
[@realDonaldTrump](#) you're seriously insane



1



5

56

[1 more reply](#)



Just Geo. @JustGeoUK · 11 Dec 2015  
[@realDonaldTrump](#) You're a racist deluded idiotic old man, but cheers for letting the world know what a bigot you are before gettin any power



2



1

7

[1 more reply](#)



The Trashman @TradTrash · 10 Dec 2015  
[@mak\\_morn](#) [@realDonaldTrump](#) No, they fought to keep their way of life and their great engineering alive.



# EXHIBIT C

# POLITICO

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Donald Trump has come under fire for calling for temporarily banning all Muslims from entering the U.S.

## **Trump not bothered by comparisons to Hitler**

The billionaire businessman refuses to back off his proposal to temporarily ban all Muslims from entering the U.S.

By NICK GASS | 12/08/15 07:51 AM EST

Donald Trump went on a series of rhetorical rants on Tuesday morning, saying he does not mind comparisons to Adolf Hitler and tussling with morning show anchors about his proposal to temporarily ban all Muslims from entering the United States, calling his approach more akin to what Hitler's American contemporary did during World War II.

"You're increasingly being compared to Hitler. Doesn't that give you any pause at all?" ABC News' George Stephanopoulos asked the Republican poll leader on "Good Morning

America," displaying an image of the Philadelphia Daily News' punning Tuesday front-page headline "The New Furor."

In response, Trump said no, invoking what he termed President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "solution for Germans, Italians, Japanese many years ago" during World War II. "This was a president that was highly respected by all," Trump said, remarking upon the Democratic president's actions during the war. "If you look at what he was doing, it was far worse."

Pressed whether he would then advocate the establishment of internment camps for Muslims, for example, Trump forcefully denied that notion. "No, I'm not. No, I'm not. No, I'm not," he said, remarking that European cities like Paris and London no longer look like they once did.

"I hope it will go quickly. I hope we can figure it out," Trump said. "We will have many, many more World Trade Centers as sure as you're sitting there, our country will never be the same."



### **Ryan repudiates Trump over Muslim ban**

By JAKE SHERMAN

Trump, no stranger to dropping rhetorical bombs since he announced his presidential run in June, still managed to stun with his proposal emailed late Monday with the simple title: "Donald J. Trump Statement on Preventing Muslim Immigration."

In it, Trump used research from the Center for Security Policy, which has been called an extremist group, to back his claim that an alarming number of Muslims want to unleash violence in the United States. "Without looking at the various polling data, it is obvious to anybody the hatred is beyond comprehension," Trump said in his statement, which many in the media believed might have been a hoax when it landed. "Where this hatred comes from and why we will have to determine. Until we are able to determine and understand this problem and the dangerous threat it poses, our country cannot be the victims of horrendous attacks by people that believe only in Jihad, and have no sense of reason or respect for human life."

The proposal came less than a week after a married Muslim couple killed 14 people and wounded 21 in a shooting attack that is apparently the most deadly terrorist act on U.S. soil since 9/11. Trump's statement, which he promoted at a Pearl Harbor Day rally in South Carolina on Monday night, played into Americans' fears stoked by the attack and also gave

Trump a chance to draw attention back to him after a poll released earlier in the day showed Ted Cruz zooming past him in Iowa.

Many of his rivals quickly condemned the comments, with Jeb Bush calling Trump "unhinged," Chris Christie calling it "a ridiculous view," and Marco Rubio saying, "His habit of making offensive and outlandish statements will not bring Americans together."

But the outcry only further threw attention Trump's way, and the billionaire businessman did not let up on Tuesday morning.

He continued trying to justify his proposal in interviews on CNN's "New Day" and MSNBC's "Morning Joe," the latter of which suspended its interview with Trump only minutes into the segment after co-host Joe Scarborough complained that the candidate was not allowing him to ask any questions. The show returned with a full panel of questions, and the entire segment ran more than a half-hour.



### **J.K. Rowling: Trump is worse than Voldemort**

By NICK GASS

During his questioning on MSNBC, Trump was grilled on what the customs process would look like for a Muslim non-citizen attempting to enter the U.S.

"That would be probably — they would say, are you Muslim?" Trump told contributor Willie Geist.

"And if they said yes, they would not be allowed in the country," Geist volunteered. "That's correct," Trump responded.

In the same interview, Trump also claimed that the Muslim community is not doing enough to self-report suspicious activity in light of last Wednesday's attack in California. Asked by co-host Mika Brzezinski whether he would want to engage the Muslim community, the Manhattan mogul said he would not, "but the Muslim community has to help us, Mika. They're not helping us."

"The Muslim community is not reporting what's going on. They should be reporting that their next-door neighbor is making pipe bombs and they've got them all over the place. The mother's in the apartment, other people, his friend was buying him rifles. Nobody was reporting that," he said of the San Bernardino case. "The Muslim community has to help us, because without the Muslim community, we would have to get very tough and much



tougher, and I don't want to do that. But the Muslim community is not a one-way street. The Muslim community knew that this guy, what he was doing, and his wife, his very heavily radicalized wife, they knew what they were doing was wrong. Nobody called the police. Nobody said this is what happened."

At the start of the interview on ABC, Trump forcefully defended his statement, citing "tremendous support" and the "thousands and thousands of people you saw last night" at his rally in South Carolina. "We were on a ship. There were thousands of people there, there were thousands of people outside that couldn't get in. And frankly, it was a standing ovation that wouldn't stop," he remarked.

"I mean, people went and interviewed the people that were at my speech last night, and they just want to see something happening. We had the World Trade Center, we had the pre-World Trade Center," he said, referring to both the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that destroyed the twin towers as well as the Feb. 26, 1993, bombing.

"You know, remember, a lot of people forget now — they tried to blow it up twice. We had so many other incidents, and we had now the last incident in California. Now it turns out that \$28,000 was deposited in this punk's savings account probably given by some people that we are fighting," he speculated, following reports Monday that more than \$28,000 had been deposited into the account of San Bernardino co-attacker Syed Rizwan Farook. "Something has to be done," he added.



### Joe Scarborough cuts off Trump: 'You can't just talk'

By NICK GASS

Trump, who on MSNBC declared himself to be more specific than any other candidate in the race, had a parting message for Muslims: "We love you, we want to work with you, we want you to turn in the bad ones, we want you to practice vigilance, we know that if you know a lot, in many cases, we want you to turn in the bad ones. We all want to get along. We want to get back to a normal, peaceful life."

On how he would get it done, Trump, offered no specifics other than to again lambaste President Barack Obama's Sunday night speech on defeating ISIL and to repeat his Monday statement.

"What I'm doing is I'm calling very simply for a shutdown of Muslims entering the United States — and here's a key — until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on. They don't know. Our president, I watched him make a fool of himself the other night

with a speech that nobody still knows — I tweeted out, is that all there is? He didn't say anything. He doesn't know what's going on. And we have people in this country that want to blow up our country. You know it, and so do I," he said on "Good Morning America."

"The polls have come out, and various polls that I've quoted, with 25 percent of those polls agreed the violence against the Americans in the United States is justified. And they're looking at the jihad. They want a global jihad. George, we can't take it sitting back. You will have many more World Trade Centers. It will only get worse," Trump warned. "You look at Paris, you know, and I'm not talking about the horrible carnage that took place. Paris is no longer the same city."

American Muslim citizens would be able to come back to the U.S., Trump said, adding, "but we have to figure things out."

Many legal scholars came out against the proposal, saying such a religious test would violate the U.S. Constitution. And the spectrum of blowback stretched wide and far. Former Vice President Dick Cheney said on Hugh Hewitt's radio show, "Well I think this whole notion that somehow we need to say no more Muslims and just ban a whole religion goes against everything we stand for and believe in. I mean religious freedom's been a very important part of our, our history."

Huma Abedin, the vice chairwoman of Hillary Clinton's campaign, sent an email to supporters saying, "I'm a proud Muslim — but you don't have to share my faith" to know "my disgust."

After Obama aides spoke out on Monday evening, White House communications director Jen Psaki said at a POLITICO Playbook breakfast on Tuesday morning that Trump is not the only Republican making irresponsible comments, but she said the real estate mogul's statement are especially dangerous.

"So the reason it's dangerous ... is that this is kind of sending a message that the American people, that our values are different from what they once were. Sending the message that we want to be in competition or we want to be, you know, thwarting the Muslim community instead of working with the Muslim community as a partner," Psaki said.

On the Republican side, Sen. Lindsey Graham re-upped his criticism, speaking on both CNN and MSNBC on Tuesday morning to call out his presidential rival. "He is a wrecking ball for the Republican Party. He is a xenophobic, race-baiting, religious bigot, and I think that's who they're supporting. Time will tell how long this goes."

The heads of state Republican parties in the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina also expressed public disapproval of Trump's proposal. "There are some issues that transcend politics. While my position [as party chairwoman] is certainly political, I am an American first," said New Hampshire GOP Chairwoman Jennifer Horn, who has been a Trump critic, according to WMUR. "There should never be a day in the United States of America when people are excluded based solely on their race or religion. It is un-Republican. It is unconstitutional. And it is un-American."

In response, Trump told Stephanopoulos, "Well, first of all, George, she's a Bush person. And she wants to see Bush, and Bush has crashed like nobody else has ever seen anyone crash before."

The United Nations' refugee settlement agency said Tuesday that campaign rhetoric from the United States is doing real harm.

"What the candidate you are speaking of was speaking of was an entire population, but this also impacts the refugee program," Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, told reporters in Geneva, according to Reuters. "Because our refugee program is religion-blind. Our resettlement program selects the people who are the most in need."

# EXHIBIT D

# Donald Trump: 'I think Islam hates us'

By **Theodore Schleifer, CNN**

⌚ Updated 5:56 PM ET, Thu March 10, 2016

## Story highlights

"I think Islam hates us," Trump told CNN's Anderson Cooper, deploring the "tremendous hatred" that he said partly defined the religion

Asked if the hatred was "in Islam itself," Trump would only say that was for the media to figure out

**Washington (CNN)** — Donald Trump said Wednesday that he thinks "Islam hates us," drawing little distinction between the religion and radical Islamic terrorism.

"I think Islam hates us," [Trump told CNN's Anderson Cooper](#), deploring the "tremendous hatred" that he said partly defined the religion. He maintained the war was against radical Islam, but said, "it's very hard to define. It's very hard to separate. Because you don't know who's who."



## Donald Trump CNN interview (part 1) 10:15

[READ: Donald Trump: 'It's over' if I win Ohio and Florida](#)

Asked if the hate was "in Islam itself," Trump would only say that was for the media to figure out.

"You're gonna have to figure that out, OK?" he told Cooper. "We have to be very vigilant. We have to be very careful. And we can't allow people coming into this country who have this hatred of the United States."



### Donald Trump CNN interview (part 2) 10:59

Trump made headlines in December [when he called for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S.](#), "until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on." Despite widespread condemnation of the remarks, Trump has stood by the proposal.

Speaking to CNN's Wolf Blitzer on "The Situation Room" Thursday, Trump spokeswoman Katrina Pierson said the real-estate magnate stood by the sentiment that many Muslims worldwide sympathize with ISIS, but said Trump should've used "radical Islam."

"It is radical Islamic extremists that do participate in these types of things," Pierson said, calling for a "broader perspective" of Muslims' ties to terror. "We've allowed this propaganda to spread all through the country that this is a religion of peace."

In speaking with Cooper, Trump added that "there can be no doctrine" when asked to outline how he would project power overseas.

Trump also tried to clarify his position on how far he would go in targeting the families of terrorists. He has said in the past that he is in favor of "expanding the laws" that govern how the U.S. can combat and deter terrorism, and Trump has called to bring back waterboarding, even vowing the U.S. ["should go a lot further than waterboarding."](#)



## Donald Trump talks about working with Democrats 00:51

[READ: Trump: My Muslim friends don't support my immigration ban](#)

But Trump on Wednesday declined to say what specific measures he would support.

"I'll work on it with the generals," he told Cooper. He added, "We have to play the game at a much tougher level than we're playing it now."



Kate McKinnon center stage on 'SNL'



'SNL' is right: Ivanka is complicit

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# EXHIBIT E







**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump

 Follow 


Incompetent Hillary, despite the horrible attack in Brussels today, wants borders to be weak and open-and let the Muslims flow in. No way!

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LIKES


36,158



7:59 PM - 22 Mar 2016

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# EXHIBIT F



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- JUNE 13, 2016 -

## DONALD J. TRUMP ADDRESSES TERRORISM, IMMIGRATION, AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Thank you for joining me today.

This was going to be a speech on Hillary Clinton and how bad a President, especially in these times of Radical Islamic Terrorism, she would be.

Even her former Secret Service Agent, who has seen her under pressure and in times of stress, has stated that she lacks the temperament and integrity to be president.

There will be plenty of opportunity to discuss these important issues at a later time, and I will deliver that speech soon.

But today there is only one thing to discuss: the growing threat of terrorism inside of our borders.

The attack on the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, was the worst terrorist strike on our soil since September 11th, and the worst mass shooting in our country's history.

So many people dead, so many people gravely injured, so much carnage, such a disgrace.

The horror is beyond description.

The families of these wonderful people are totally devastated. Likewise, our whole nation, and indeed the whole world, is devastated.

We express our deepest sympathies to the victims, the wounded, and their families.

We mourn, as one people, for our nation's loss - and pledge our support to any and all who need it.

I would like to ask now that we all observe a moment of silence for the victims of the attack.

[SILENCE]

Our nation stands together in solidarity with the members of Orlando's LGBT Community.

This is a very dark moment in America's history.

A radical Islamic terrorist targeted the nightclub not only because he wanted to kill Americans, but in order to execute gay and lesbian citizens because of their sexual orientation.

It is a strike at the heart and soul of who we are as a nation.

It is an assault on the ability of free people to live their lives, love who they want and express their identity.

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It is an attack on the right of every single American to live in peace and safety in their own country.

We need to respond to this attack on America as one united people - with force, purpose and determination.

But the current politically correct response cripples our ability to talk and think and act clearly.

If we don't get tough, and we don't get smart - and fast - we're not going to have a country anymore -- there will be nothing left.

The killer, whose name I will not use, or ever say, was born to Afghan parents who immigrated to the United States. His father published support for the Afghan Taliban, a regime which murders those who don't share its radical views. The father even said he was running for President of that country.

The bottom line is that the only reason the killer was in America in the first place was because we allowed his family to come here.

That is a fact, and it's a fact we need to talk about.

We have a dysfunctional immigration system which does not permit us to know who we let into our country, and it does not permit us to protect our citizens.

We have an incompetent administration, and if I am not elected President, that will not change over the next four years -- but it must change, and it must change now.

With fifty people dead, and dozens more wounded, we cannot afford to talk around the issue anymore -- we have to address it head on.

I called for a ban after San Bernardino, and was met with great scorn and anger but now, many are saying I was right to do so -- and although the pause is temporary, we must find out what is going on. The ban will be lifted when we as a nation are in a position to properly and perfectly screen those people coming into our country.

The immigration laws of the United States give the President the power to suspend entry into the country of any class of persons that the President deems detrimental to the interests or security of the United States, as he deems appropriate.

I will use this power to protect the American people. When I am elected, I will suspend immigration from areas of the world when there is a proven history of terrorism against the United States, Europe or our allies, until we understand how to end these threats.

After a full, impartial and long overdue security assessment, we will develop a responsible immigration policy that serves the interests and values of America.

We cannot continue to allow thousands upon thousands of people to pour into our country, many of whom have the same thought process as this savage killer.

Many of the principles of Radical Islam are incompatible with Western values and institutions.

Radical Islam is anti-woman, anti-gay and anti-American.

I refuse to allow America to become a place where gay people, Christian people, and Jewish people, are the targets of persecution and intimidation by Radical Islamic preachers of hate and violence.

It's not just a national security issue. It is a quality of life issue.

If we want to protect the quality of life for all Americans – women and children, gay and straight, Jews and Christians and all people – then we need to tell the truth about Radical Islam.

We need to tell the truth, also, about how Radical Islam is coming to our shores.

We are importing Radical Islamic Terrorism into the West through a failed immigration system -- and through an intelligence community held back by our president.

Even our own FBI Director has admitted that we cannot effectively check the backgrounds of the people we are letting into America.

All of the September 11th hijackers were issued visas.

Large numbers of Somali refugees in Minnesota have tried to join ISIS.

The Boston Bombers came here through political asylum.

The male shooter in San Bernardino – again, whose name I won't mention -- was the child of immigrants from Pakistan, and he brought his wife – the other terrorist - from Saudi Arabia, through another one of our easily exploited visa programs.

Immigration from Afghanistan into the United States has increased nearly five-fold in just one year. According to Pew Research, 99% of people in Afghanistan support oppressive Sharia Law.

We admit many more from other countries in the region who share these same oppressive views.

If we want to remain a free and open society, then we have to control our borders.

Yet, Hillary Clinton – for months and despite so many attacks – repeatedly refused to even say the words “radical Islam,” until I challenged her yesterday to say the words or leave the race.

However, Hillary Clinton – who has been forced to say the words today after policies she supports have caused us so much damage – still has no clue what Radical Islam is, and won't speak honestly about what it is.

She is in total denial, and her continuing reluctance to ever name the enemy broadcasts weakness across the world.

In fact, just a few weeks before the San Bernardino slaughter, Hillary Clinton explained her refusal to say the words Radical Islam. Here is what she said: “Muslims are peaceful and tolerant people, and have nothing whatsoever to do with terrorism.”

Hillary Clinton says the solution is to ban guns. They tried that in France, which has among the toughest gun laws in the world, and 130 were brutally murdered by Islamic terrorists in cold blood. Her plan is to disarm law-abiding Americans, abolishing the 2nd amendment, and leaving only the bad guys and terrorists with guns. She wants to take away Americans' guns, then admit the very people who want to slaughter us.

I will be meeting with the NRA, which has given me their earliest endorsement in a Presidential race, to discuss how to ensure Americans have the means to protect themselves in this age of terror.

The bottom line is that Hillary supports the policies that bring the threat of Radical Islam into America, and allow it to grow overseas.

In fact, Hillary Clinton's catastrophic immigration plan will bring vastly more Radical Islamic immigration into this country, threatening not only our security but our way of life.

When it comes to Radical Islamic terrorism, ignorance is not bliss – it's deadly.

The Obama Administration, with the support of Hillary Clinton and others, has also damaged our security by restraining our intelligence-gathering and failing to support law enforcement. They have put political correctness above common sense, above your safety, and above all else.

I refuse to be politically correct.

I will do the right thing--I want to straighten things out and to Make America Great Again.

The days of deadly ignorance will end, and they will end soon.

As President I will give our intelligence community, law enforcement and military the tools they need to prevent terrorist attacks.

We need an intelligence-gathering system second to none. That includes better cooperation between state, local and federal officials – and with our allies.

I will have an Attorney General, a Director of National Intelligence, and a Secretary of Defense who will know how to fight the war on Radical Islamic Terrorism – and who will have the support they require to get the job done.

We also must ensure the American people are provided the information they need to understand the threat.

The Senate Subcommittee on Immigration has already identified hundreds of immigrants charged with terrorist activities inside the United States since September 11th.

Nearly a year ago, the Senate Subcommittee asked President Obama's Departments of Justice, State and Homeland Security to provide the immigration history of all terrorists inside the United States.

These Departments refused to comply.

President Obama must release the full and complete immigration histories of all individuals implicated in terrorist activity of any kind since 9/11.

The public has a right to know how these people got here.

We have to screen applicants to know whether they are affiliated with, or support, radical groups and beliefs.

We have to control the amount of future immigration into this country to prevent large pockets of radicalization from forming inside America.

Even a single individual can be devastating, just look at what happened in Orlando. Can you imagine large groups?

Truly, our President doesn't know what he is doing. He has failed us, and failed us badly, and under his leadership, this situation will not get any better -- it will only get worse.

Each year, the United States permanently admits more than 100,000 immigrants from the Middle East, and many more from Muslim countries outside the Middle East.

Our government has been admitting ever-growing numbers, year after year, without any effective plan for our security.

In fact, Clinton's State Department was in charge of the admissions process for people applying to enter from overseas.

Having learned nothing from these attacks, she now plans to massively increase admissions without a screening plan, including a 500% increase in Syrian refugees.

This could be a better, bigger version of the legendary Trojan Horse.

We can't let this happen.

Altogether, under the Clinton plan, you'd be admitting hundreds of thousands of refugees from the Middle East with no system to vet them, or to prevent the radicalization of their children.

The burden is on Hillary Clinton to tell us why she believes immigration from these dangerous countries should be increased without any effective system to screen who we are bringing in.

The burden is on Hillary Clinton to tell us why we should admit anyone into our country who supports violence of any kind against gay and lesbian Americans.

The burden is also on Hillary Clinton to tell us how she will pay for it. Her plan will cost Americans hundreds of billions of dollars long-term.

Wouldn't this money be better spent on rebuilding America for our current population, including the many poor people already living here?

We have to stop the tremendous flow of Syrian refugees into the United States – we don't know who they are, they have no documentation, and we don't know what they're planning.

What I want is common sense. I want a mainstream immigration policy that promotes American values.

That is the choice I put before the American people: a mainstream immigration policy designed to benefit America, or Hillary Clinton's radical immigration policy designed to benefit politically-correct special interests.

We've got to get smart, and tough, and vigilant, and we've got to do it now, because later is too late.

Ask yourself, who is really the friend of women and the LGBT community, Donald Trump with his actions, or Hillary Clinton with her words? Clinton wants to allow Radical Islamic terrorists to pour into our country—they enslave women, and murder gays.

I don't want them in our country.

The terrorist attack on the Pulse Night Club demands a full and complete investigation into every aspect of the assault.

In San Bernardino, as an example, people knew what was going on, but they used the excuse of racial profiling for not reporting it.

We need to know what the killer discussed with his relatives, parents, friends and associates.

We need to know if he was affiliated with any radical Mosques or radical activists and whether he had immigration status.

We need to know if he travelled anywhere, and who he travelled with.

We need to make sure every single last person involved in this plan – including anyone who knew something but didn't tell us – is brought to justice.

If it can be proven that somebody had information about any attack, and did not give this information to authorities, they must serve prison time .

America must do more – much more – to protect its citizens, especially people who are potential victims of crimes based on their backgrounds or sexual orientations.

It also means we must change our foreign policy.

The decision to overthrow the regime in Libya, then pushing for the overthrow of the regime in Syria, among other things, without plans for the day after, have created space for ISIS to expand and grow.

These actions, along with our disastrous Iran deal, have also reduced our ability to work in partnership with our Muslim allies in the region.

That is why our new goal must be to defeat Islamic terrorism, not nation-building.

For instance, the last major NATO mission was Hillary Clinton's war in Libya. That mission helped unleash ISIS on a new continent.

I've said NATO needs to change its focus to stopping terrorism. Since I've raised that criticism, NATO has since announced a new initiative focused on just that.

America must unite the whole civilized world in the fight against Islamic terrorism, just like we did against communism in the Cold War.

We've tried it President Obama's way. He gave the world his apology tour, we got ISIS, and many other problems, in return.

I'd like to conclude my remarks today by again expressing our solidarity with the people of Orlando who have come under attack.

When I am President, I pledge to protect and defend all Americans who live inside of our borders. Wherever they come from, wherever they were born, all Americans living here and following our laws will be protected.

America will be a tolerant and open society.

America will also be a safe society.

We will protect our borders at home.

We will defeat ISIS overseas.

We will ensure every parent can raise their children in peace and safety.

We will make America rich again.

We will make America safe again.

We will make American Great Again.

Thank you.

The media talks about "homegrown," terrorism, but Islamic radicalism, and the networks that nurture it, are imports from overseas.



Yes, there are many radicalized people already inside our country as a result of the poor policies of the past. But the whole point is that it will be much, much easier to deal with our current problem if we don't keep on bringing in people who add to the problem.

For instance, the controversial Mosque attended by the Boston Bombers had as its founder an immigrant from overseas charged in an assassination plot.

This shooter in Orlando was the child of an immigrant father who supported one of the most repressive regimes on Earth. Why would we admit people who support violent hatred?

Hillary Clinton can never claim to be a friend of the gay community as long as she continues to support immigration policies that bring Islamic extremists to our country who suppress women, gays and anyone who doesn't share their views.

She can't have it both ways. She can't claim to be supportive of these communities while trying to increase the number of people coming in who want to oppress them.

How does this kind of immigration make our life better? How does this kind of immigration make our country better?

Why does Hillary Clinton want to bring people here—in vast numbers—who reject our values?

Immigration is a privilege, and we should not let anyone into this country who doesn't support our communities – all of our communities.

America has already admitted four times more immigrants than any country on earth, and we continue to admit millions more with no real checks or scrutiny.

Not surprisingly, wages for our workers haven't budged in many years.

So whether it's matter of national security, or financial security, we can't afford to keep on going like this. We owe \$19 trillion in debt, and no longer have options.

All our communities, from all backgrounds, are ready for some relief. This is not an act of offense against anyone; it is an act of defense.

I want us all to work together, including in partnership with our Muslim communities. But Muslim communities must cooperate with law enforcement and turn in the people who they know are bad – and they do know where they are.

I want to fix our schools, roads, bridges and job market. I want every American to succeed. Hillary Clinton wants to empty out the Treasury to bring people into the country that include individuals who preach hate against our own citizens.

I want to protect our citizens – all of our citizens.

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Next Release: **Donald J. Trump Campaign Schedule for Monday June 13th**


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# EXHIBIT G





**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump

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# EXHIBIT H

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## Terrorism Awareness Project

After overthrowing the Taliban, the theocratic regime that had provided a base for the 9/11 attack, we returned to our illusion of peace and safety. When the Bush Administration summoned us to war against a second base of terror in Iraq, only half the nation responded to the call. This war has been called a “distraction” from the war on terror, even though the terrorists themselves, beginning with Osama bin Laden, call it the central front of their jihad and have described their goal as making Iraq the next homeland for their terror apparatus. Because of the campaign by the “anti-war” opposition in our own country, we are in a state of denial about the reality of the war that has been declared on us. Consequently, we are grossly unprepared for the dangers that surround us and unwilling to do what is necessary for our safety. Our populace as a whole is ignorant of the threat, underestimates our enemy, and is unaware of its true intent, capabilities and resolve. That lack of understanding and urgency is particularly apparent on our college campuses, where an unwillingness to focus on the face of the enemy is often compounded by a tendency to blame America first.

To dramatize the struggle for survival our nation faces, we concerned students have decided to launch the Terrorism Awareness Project. We will provide informational literature, films, posters, advertisements, speakers, and panel discussions whose purpose is to make our fellow students aware of the Islamic jihad and the terrorist threat, and to mobilize support for the defense of America and the civilization of the West.

The cost of continued complacency will be lethal. The terrorists will attack us again. The only questions are Where? and When?

The war against the Islamic jihad and its religion of terror will be decisively won if we both understand the nature of the threat that confronts us and have the will to face it. The Terrorism Awareness Project will assist in achieving both these objectives. Under its banner, college students across America can take their place in defending America, which is under siege both abroad and at home.

Faithfully,

Stephen Miller

TAP President

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# EXHIBIT I

# In college, Trump aide Stephen Miller led controversial 'Terrorism Awareness Project' warning of 'Islamofascism'

By Andrew Kaczynski and Chris Massie, CNN

⌚ Updated 3:40 PM ET, Wed February 15, 2017



Source: [CNN](#)

Miller hammers down on voter fraud claim 02:52

## Story highlights

Stephen Miller's hardline views on Islam and terrorism took shape while he was a student at Duke University.

Miller helped launch the "Terrorism Awareness Project," aimed at educating students about the risk of "Islamofascism."

**(CNN)** — White House senior policy adviser Stephen Miller has garnered attention in recent weeks as one of the chief architects behind President Donald Trump's executive order temporarily banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries.

The 31-year-old aide's hardline views on Islam and terrorism took shape while he was still a student at Duke University. It was there, in the 2007 spring semester of his senior year, that Miller helped launch and run the "Terrorism Awareness Project," an initiative, Miller wrote at the time, that was aimed at educating students about the risk of "Islamofascism."

A CNN KFile review of Miller's comments on TV and on his [blog](#) for the project, which is available on the Web archive, reveal Miller's belief that the US and western civilization are at war with Islamic jihadists. Miller did not respond to multiple requests for comment from CNN's KFile for this story.



Miller served as national campus coordinator, president, and co-founder of the initiative, which was launched by the David Horowitz Freedom Center, a right-wing group which describes its missions as combating "the efforts of the radical left and its Islamist allies to destroy American values and disarm this country as it attempts to defend itself in a time of terror."

A key premise of the project, Miller wrote in a blog post, was that schools and universities under left-wing influence had failed to educate students about the risk of what the project's leaders called "Islamofascism" and had allowed the ideology to penetrate school systems and academia.

"Gripped by complacency and the omnipresent force of political correctness, our nation has failed to educate our youth about the holy war being waged against us and what needs to be done to defeat the Jihadists that are waging this war," Miller wrote. "American kids attend school in an educational system corrupted by the hard left. In this upside-down world, America is the villain and Jihadists the victims of our foreign policy. Instead of opening eyes, we are fastening blindfolds."

The mission, Miller added, was to "provide informational literature, films, posters, advertisements, speakers, and panel discussions whose purpose is to make our fellow students aware of the Islamic jihad and the terrorist threat, and to mobilize support for the defense of America and the civilization of the West."

The main effort taken on by the group was putting on "Islamofascism Awareness Week" at college campuses around the country. One poster for the event [available](#) on the Web archive depicts the execution of a woman by a member of the Taliban.

A guide [available](#) on the Web archive outlined suggestions to college students on how to put on events for the week.

The guide suggested students do a sit-in in Women's Studies Departments "to protest the silence of Women's Studies programs and Women's Centers in our universities while women are suffering brutal and inhumane treatment in the Islamic world."

It also suggests hosting a filming of "Islam: What the West Needs to Know" which "reveals the violent, expansionary ideology of the so called 'religion of peace' that seeks the destruction or subjugation of other faiths, cultures, and systems of government."



The archived site also includes a grainy, mid-2000s animation film that features the word "Jihad" superimposed over the United States and set to the musical selection Carmina Burana. The film, "What Every American Needs To Know About Jihad" listed Islamic terrorists and showed quotes of Osama Bin Laden. Ads by the group in the Duke Chronicle advertised screenings of another film "Obsession," a documentary on radical Islam screened on campuses which some critics charged as incendiary and Islamophobic.

In February 2007, the group attempted to run an ad in campus newspapers nationwide, but newspapers refused to run it. Fox News reported at the time the ad was designed by Robert Spencer, a man who the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation league have labeled "anti-Muslim." The ad argued that jihad "is about the global rule of radical Islam" and constitutes a war against Christians, Jews, women, and gays, alongside quotations attributed to Osama bin Laden and others.

In a February 2007 appearance on Fox and Friends, Miller said the decision by some universities not to run the ad showed their bias.

"That's what so insane, is that in today's environment on college campuses, you can have these professors saying that we fabricated 9/11, you can have people like Samuel Aron teaching, who were indicted for terrorist ties, you can have, like at Duke, we had a conference come to the university where people were actually recruited to interfere against Israeli anti-terror operations," Miller said. "You've got this insane stuff happening on our campuses, but you can't run a simple fact-based ad that talks about the threat of radical Islam."



A screen grab from a Terrorism Awareness Project video.

Spencer wrote in an email to CNN's KFile that he didn't remember writing the ad, but he said he was "of course" pleased that Miller had attained an influential role in the White House and defended himself against the criticism that his views are "anti-Muslim."

"The idea that those who call attention to the nature and magnitude of the jihad threat are 'extreme thinkers on the right' is false and malicious propaganda spread by the SPLC, a hate group dedicated to defaming and thereby marginalizing voices that dissent from its hard-Left, globalist, internationalist line," Spencer said. "I am no more

'anti-Muslim' than foes of the Nazis were 'anti-German.' That any of our views are remotely controversial is a testimony to how corrupt and compromised you and your colleagues are."

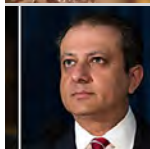
David Horowitz, the founder of the project, said that he didn't remember Miller's involvement, but said that the two have known each other since Miller was in high school and that he recommended Miller to former Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann (Miller worked as her press secretary). Asked how he thought Miller's views on Islam had evolved since he participated in the project, Horowitz said he didn't know, adding, "I know that he admires my work. As many normal people do."



New Utah bigamy law passes Senate after 'Sister Wives' suit



'SNL' is right: Ivanka is complicit



After firing Preet Bharara, President Trump beware



Congressional deadline arrives for DOJ evidence on Trump wiretap claims

# EXHIBIT J

# Steve Bannon in 2010: 'Islam is not a religion of peace. Islam is a religion of submission'

By Andrew Kaczynski, CNN

🕒 Updated 8:51 PM ET, Tue January 31, 2017



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## Bannon seen as most influential Trump adviser 02:54

### Story highlights

"Islam is not a religion of peace. Islam is a religion of submission. Islam means submission," Bannon said.

Bannon mocked George W. Bush for proclaiming "Islam is a religion of peace."

**(CNN)** — President Trump's chief strategist, former Breitbart executive Steve Bannon, once dismissed the notion that Islam is a religion of peace, describing it in a 2010 radio interview as "a religion of submission."

Bannon made the comments on "Western Word Radio with Avi Davis," an online right-wing radio station.

In the segment, Bannon, who at the time served on the board of Breitbart, criticized former President George W. Bush for what he and fellow guest conservative columnist Diana West described as injecting political correctness into the federal government.

Bannon mocked Bush for proclaiming "Islam is a religion of peace."

"Islam is not a religion of peace. Islam is a religion of submission. Islam means submission," Bannon said. "I mean, the whole thing is just, he is the epitome, he's a Republican version--not a conservative--he's a Republican



Steve Bannon in 2010: "Islam is not a religion of peace. Islam is a religion of submission, CNN Politics.com establishment, country club version of the Clintons. That's all they are. It's the baby boomer, narcissistic, he wants to feel loved."



[KevinFileman](#)  
December 2010

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The word Islam means submission, and a Muslim is one who submits to God. The Arabic root of the word Islam means "to be safe" and is connected to the word "peace."

A spokesperson for the Trump administration did not respond to a request for a comment before publication.

Bannon's comments shed light on his views on Islam, just as his role in the White House comes under intense scrutiny.

Bannon played a key role in designing and implementing Trump's executive order banning citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States, suspending the US refugee admissions program for four months, and indefinitely banning Syrian refugees from being relocated to the US.

Over the weekend, Trump signed another executive order elevating Bannon, a political strategist, to a principal position on the National Security Council, in a break from prior administration's practice.

*Editor's note: This article has been updated to clarify the definition of Islam.*

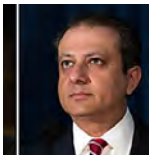


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**Stephen  
Bannon**

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# in 2014: We Are at War With Radical Islam

By [SCOTT SHANE](#) FEB. 1, 2017

0:00

Courtesy BuzzFeed

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Stephen K. Bannon, left, President Trump's chief strategist, and Reince Priebus on the morning of the inauguration. Hillary Swift for The New York Times

Stephen K. Bannon, the former chief of Breitbart News and now President Trump's chief strategist, was the main driver of the president's rapid signing of the executive order on immigration on Friday, which set off a political firestorm. At the center of critics' concerns is the perception that the order is aimed at Muslims, though Mr. Trump said over the weekend that the order "is not a Muslim ban" and noted that it singled out only seven of about 50 majority-Muslim countries.

Mr. Bannon has long argued that Americans, whether they know it or not, are in a war with radical Islam, describing it in sweeping, almost apocalyptic terms. His view appears to be shared by Mr. Trump and his national security adviser, retired Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn, and by several lower-ranking officials. Illuminating Mr. Bannon's views is a lengthy talk he gave in the summer of 2014 via Skype from Los Angeles to a Vatican meeting of the Institute for Human Dignity, a conservative Catholic group based in Rome. What follows are brief audio and video excerpts of the talk, which was first published in full by BuzzFeed in November, with explanatory comments.

## Islamic Fascism

Speaking as Islamic State fighters battled their way across Iraq, seizing territory and shocking American and European officials, Mr. Bannon repeatedly stated that the United States was in a "global war" with radical Islam, which he

0:00

Courtesy Buzzfeed

0:00

Steven Bannon. Module 3 – Should Christians impose limits on ...



Now that call converges with something we have to face, and it's a very unpleasant topic, but we are in an outright war against jihadist Islamic fascism. And this war is, I think, metastasizing far quicker than governments can handle it.

If you look at what's happening in ISIS, which is the Islamic State of Syria and the Levant, that is now currently forming the caliphate that is having a military drive on Baghdad, if you look at the sophistication of which they've taken the tools of capitalism. If you look at what they've done with Twitter and Facebook and modern ways to fund-raise, and to use crowdsourcing to fund, besides all the access to weapons, over the last couple days they have had a radical program of taking kids and trying to turn them into bombers. They have driven 50,000 Christians out of a town near the Kurdish border. We have video that we're putting up later today on Breitbart where they've took 50 hostages and thrown them off a cliff in Iraq.

That war is expanding and it's metastasizing to sub-Saharan Africa. We have Boko Haram and other groups that will eventually partner with ISIS in this global war, and it is, unfortunately, something that we're going to have to face, and we're going to have to face very quickly.

## What ISIS Wants

Mr. Bannon discusses the hopes of the Islamic State, also known as ISIS or ISIL, to slaughter people in Western Europe and the United States:

Steven Bannon. Module 3 – Should Christians impose limits on ...



0:00

Courtesy Buzzfeed

0:00

United States into a river of blood. It comes in and tries to defend the city of Baghdad. And trust me, that is going to come to Europe. That is going to come to Central Europe, it's going to come to Western Europe, it's going to come to the United Kingdom. And so I think we are in a crisis of the underpinnings of capitalism, and on top of that we're now, I believe, at the beginning stages of a global war against Islamic fascism.

## Secularism

Asked whether “secularism or the Muslim world” posed the greater threat to Judeo-Christian civilization, Mr. Bannon links the two:

Listen 1:19

It's a great question. I certainly think secularism has sapped the strength of the Judeo-Christian West to defend its ideals,

right?

If you go back to your home countries and your proponent of the defense of the Judeo-Christian West and its tenets, oftentimes, particularly when you deal with the elites, you're looked at as someone who is quite odd. So it has kind of sapped the strength.

But I strongly believe that whatever the causes of the current drive to the caliphate was — and we can debate them, and people can try to deconstruct them — we have to face a very unpleasant fact: And that unpleasant fact is that there is a major war brewing, a war that's already global. It's going global in scale, and today's technology, today's media, today's access to weapons of mass destruction, it's going to lead to a global conflict that I believe has to be confronted today. Every day that we refuse to look at this as what it is, and the scale of it, and really the viciousness of it, will be a day where you will rue that we didn't act.

## Vladimir Putin

A questioner asks about Russia's president, Vladimir V. Putin, and Mr. Bannon gives a mixed answer — rejecting Mr. Putin's corruption but suggesting that “the Judeo-Christian West” could learn from his “traditionalism.”

Listen 0:43

I'm not justifying Vladimir Putin and the kleptocracy that he represents, because he eventually is the state capitalist of

kleptocracy. However, we the Judeo-Christian West really have to look at what he's talking about as far as traditionalism goes — particularly the sense of where it supports the underpinnings of nationalism — and I happen to think that the individual sovereignty

of a country is a good thing and a strong thing. I think strong

0:00

Courtesy Buzzfeed

0:00

forward.

## Western Response

Asked how the West should respond to the threat from radical Islam and “not lose itself in the process,” Mr. Bannon for the first time drops the adjectives and talked simply about the “struggle against Islam.” He connects the current world situation to centuries-old conflicts between Christianity and Islam.

Listen 0:38

I believe you should take a very, very, very aggressive stance against radical Islam.

And I realize there are other aspects that are not as militant and not as aggressive and that’s fine.

If you look back at the long history of the Judeo-Christian West struggle against Islam, I believe that our forefathers kept their stance, and I think they did the right thing. I think they kept it out of the world, whether it was at Vienna, or Tours, or other places... It bequeathed to us the great institution that is the church of the West.

## Historic Conflict

Mr. Bannon is referring to two historic victories of Christian forces over Muslim attackers: One was in 732 in Tours, France, when Charles Martel successfully fought off Muslim horsemen under Abdul Rahman Al Ghafiqi. The other was in 1529, with the failed siege of Vienna by the Ottoman forces under Suleiman the Magnificent, the sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Mr. Bannon calls on his fellow Catholics to act during what he describes as a “crisis.”

Listen 0:49

And I would ask everybody in the audience today, because you really are the movers and drivers and shakers and thought leaders

in the Catholic Church today, is to think, when people 500 years from now are going to think about today, think about the actions you’ve taken — and I believe everyone associated with the church and associated with the Judeo-Christian West that believes in the underpinnings of that and believes in the precepts of that and want to see that bequeathed to other generations down the road as it was bequeathed to us, particularly as you’re in a city like Rome, and in a place like the Vatican, see what’s been bequeathed to us — ask yourself, 500 years from today, what are they going to say about me? What are they going to say about what I did at the beginning stages of this crisis?

0:00

Courtesy Buzzfeed

0:00

Listen 0:47

Because it is a crisis, and it's not going away. You don't have to take my word for it. All you have to do is read the news every day, see what's coming up, see what they're putting on Twitter, what they're putting on Facebook, see what's on CNN, what's on BBC. See what's happening, and you will see that we're in a war of immense proportions. It's very easy to play to our baser instincts, and we can't do that. But our forefathers didn't do it, either. And they were able to stave this off, and they were able to defeat it, and they were able to bequeath to us a church and a civilization that really is the flower of mankind, so I think it's incumbent on all of us to do what I call a gut check, to really think about what our role is in this battle that's before us.

Design and production by Danny DeBelius

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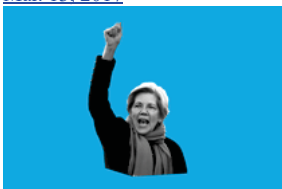
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# EXHIBIT L





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## BANNON DRIVING FORCE BEHIND TRUMP'S HARDLINE IMMIGRATION BAN, OFFICIALS SAY

BY REUTERS ON 1/30/17 AT 6:56 PM

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U.S. DONALD TRUMP STEVE BANNON IMMIGRATION BAN

When Donald Trump's administration put together its controversial executive order on immigration, it was Steve Bannon – the populist firebrand fast emerging as the president's right-hand man – pushing a hard line.

Senior officials at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) interpreted the order to mean that lawful permanent residents - green card holders – who hailed from the seven Muslim-majority countries targeted in the immigration order would not face additional screening when they entered the country.

But they were quickly overruled by Bannon, who is Trump's chief strategist and oversaw the drafting of the executive order along with White House policy adviser Stephen Miller, a close ally of Bannon's, the officials said.



U.S. President Donald Trump talks to Steve Bannon during a swearing in ceremony for senior staff at the White House in Washington, D.C., on January 22.

REUTERS/CARLOS BARRIA

"They were in charge of this operation," one senior DHS official said, adding that the experts were "almost immediately overruled by the White House, which means by Bannon and Miller."

A senior national security official described the pair as a "tag team" pushing Trump's key policies, including the immigration order which bars the entry of refugees and places a temporary hold on people from seven countries - Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Somalia and Libya.

The inclusion of green card holders from those countries intensified opposition to an executive order that sparked legal challenges, protests at airports and sharp criticism from inside the Republican Party, including from some Trump allies.

DHS officials say there was little or no White House consultation with immigration, customs and border security agencies on the immigration policy change, causing widespread confusion over how to implement Trump's order.

A senior administration official said the order went through a review by "key people" at DHS and the White House National Security Council, and that several immigration staff on Capitol Hill were involved in drafting the order.

But officials said Bannon was the driving force throughout.

The White House had no immediate comment on Bannon's role.

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<http://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-steve-bannon-immigration-ban-immigration-muslim-550415>

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Bannon has populism and American nat to a desire to curb what he v sive effects of globalization. He has rejected what he called the "ethno-nationalist" tendencies of some in the movement.

After becoming chief executive of Trump's election campaign in August, the former Goldman Sachs banker and Navy veteran helped lead him to victory over Clinton. He was then appointed by Trump as senior counselor and chief strategist - jobs not subject to U.S. Senate confirmation.

He has been an almost constant presence by Trump's side in the first 10 days of the administration - in the White House for a meeting with American manufacturers, at CIA headquarters the day after Trump was sworn in, and in the Oval Office during British Prime Minister Theresa May's visit.

He appears to have greatly expanded his power in the first 10 days of Trump's presidency.

### Elevation to NSC

Trump gave him an unprecedented seat in the NSC's top-level meetings and potentially narrowed the role played by the director of national intelligence (DNI) and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Bannon has also asserted authority over almost all written statements from the White House and the NSC and has sent back documents for rewrites as he sees fit, one NSC official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Critics, including four senior U.S. intelligence officers, called the decision to formalize Bannon's role at the NSC meetings a mistake, saying it risks politicizing decisions on national security.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer on Monday defended Bannon's inclusion in the NSC.

### Related Stories

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Steve Bannon Labels Media 'Opposition Party'

Susan Rice, the former national security adviser in former President Barack Obama's administration, tweeted on Sunday: "This is stone cold crazy. After a week of crazy."

Bannon and Miller are drowning out the opinions of more moderate advisers like White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, said a senior DHS official and two people in Washington who work closely with the White House on immigration and a range of other issues.

One of those people and the DHS official said Priebus felt he had placed enough of his fellow moderate Republicans in key positions at the White House as a counterbalance to Bannon and Miller, but he has been frustrated at their outsized influence so far, especially on issues of immigration and national security.

A White House official declined to comment.

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# EXHIBIT M



# Trump signs executive order to keep out 'radical Islamic terrorists'

By **Dan Merica, CNN**

🕒 Updated 2:02 PM ET, Mon January 30, 2017



Source: [CNN](#)

Trump: We don't want them here 02:50

## Story highlights

Democrats blasted Trump's move

Trump also signed a second executive action on Friday that would spur military spending

**Washington (CNN)** — President Donald Trump signed an executive order Friday that indefinitely suspends admissions for Syrian refugees and limits the flow of other refugees into the United States by instituting what the President has called "extreme vetting" of immigrants.

Titled "Protection Of The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States," the executive order would start to make good on Trump's promise to tighten borders and halt certain refugees from entering the United States.

The text of the order -- in a break from drafts that had been circulating earlier this week -- drops a longtime Trump campaign pledge to establish safe zones in Syria to give Syrian nationals displaced by the ongoing civil war in the country a place to relocate.

The order bars all persons from certain "terror-prone" countries from entering the United States for 90 days and suspends the US Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days until it is reinstated "only for nationals of countries for whom" members of Trump's Cabinet deem can be properly vetted.



### Understand Trump's refugee restrictions 01:18

The countries impacted are Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia, according to a White House official.

"I hereby proclaim that the entry of nationals of Syria as refugees is detrimental to the interests of the United States and thus suspend any such entry," the order signed by Trump reads.

The total number of refugees admitted into the United States would also be capped during the 2017 fiscal year at 50,000, down more than half from the current level of 110,000.

"I am establishing new vetting measures to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the United States of America," Trump said during the signing at the Pentagon after the swearing-in of Defense Secretary James Mattis. "We don't want them here."

He added, "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."



Trump's order will also cancel the Visa Interview Waiver Program, which once allowed repeat travelers to the United States to be able to forgo an in-person interview to renew their visa. Under the new order, these travelers will now have to have in-person interviews.

At the Pentagon, Trump met privately for about an hour with Mattis, Vice President Mike Pence, Security Adviser Mike Flynn and military officials and they discussed accelerating the defeat of ISIS, confronting global threats like North Korea, military readiness and the National Guard, a Defense official told CNN. The meeting took place in "the tank," secure room where the Joint Chiefs meet.

**Related Article:** How Donald Trump changed the presidency in 7 days

Trump also signed a second executive action on Friday that would spur military spending and, as Trump said, "begin the great rebuilding of the Armed Services of the United States."

The President added that the executive action instructs Mattis to begin "developing a plan for new planes, new ships, new resources and new tools for our men and women in uniform."

## The ban and its impact

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Trump's order on refugees has been something the White House has been considering for days and the President was seen with the document on his Air Force One desk Thursday when he flew to Philadelphia.

House Speaker Paul Ryan praised Trump's orders on Friday.

"Our number one responsibility is to protect the homeland. We are a compassionate nation, and I support the refugee resettlement program, but it's time to re-evaluate and strengthen the visa-vetting process," Ryan said in a statement, adding, "President Trump is right to make sure we are doing everything possible to know exactly who is entering our country."

## Prioritizing Christians over Muslims



### Khizr Khan on Trump's refugee ban 03:23

By signing the measures, Trump is making good on his promise to block Syrian and certain other refugees from entering the United States and his murkier pledge of banning Muslim immigration into the United States, a vow that his aides have walked back as being directed at countries seen as terror hotbeds.

The order also gave the Department of Homeland Security leeway to prioritize refugee claims made by people "on the basis of religious based persecution" as long as the person applying for refugee status is "a minority religion in the individual's country of nationality."

This would make it easier for Christians and other religious minorities in majority Muslim countries from entering the United States than it would for Muslims in general.



Trump did not back away from the idea that he is prioritizing Christians over Muslims in an interview with the Christian Broadcast Network taped before he signed the measures on Friday.

"We are going to help them," Trump said about persecuted Christians. "They've been horribly treated. Do you know if you were a Christian in Syria it was impossible, at least very tough, to get into the United States? If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible and the reason that was so unfair, everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians. And I thought it was very, very unfair."

**Related Article:** Trump says US will prioritize Christian refugees

Trump did not cite a reason or offer any evidence about why the agencies that vet refugees, including the Department of

Homeland Security and the State Department, would have prioritized Muslim refugees over Christians.



## 'This is a Muslim ban'

Democrats blasted Trump's move -- even before they saw the text of the documents -- arguing that while it may not ban all Muslims from entering the United States, it still is discriminatory.

"Make no mistake -- this is a Muslim ban," Sen. Kamala Harris, a Democrat from California, said in a statement.

"Tears are running down the cheeks of the Statue of Liberty tonight as a grand tradition of America, welcoming immigrants, that has existed since America was founded has been stomped upon," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement. "Taking in immigrants and refugees is not only humanitarian but has also boosted our economy and created jobs decade after decade. This is one of the most backward and nasty executive orders that the president has issued."



### McCaul: Trump to freeze Syrian refugee program 02:19

The American Civil Liberties Union also called Trump's action "just a euphemism for discrimination against Muslims."

### Executive orders: Read more

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<http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/27/politics/trump-plans-to-sign-executive-action-on-refugees-extreme-vetting/>

"Identifying specific countries with Muslim majorities and carving out exceptions for minority religions flies in the face of the constitutional principle that bans the government from either favoring or discriminating against particular religions," American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Anthony Romero said in a statement.

And the Council on American-Islamic Relations vowed it would file a lawsuit over the order.

"There is no evidence that refugees -- the most thoroughly vetted of all people entering our nation -- are a threat to

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- What's the difference between and order and action?

national security," CAIR National Litigation Director Lena F. Masri said in a statement. "This is an order that is based on bigotry, not reality."

*CORRECTION: An earlier version of this story incorrectly stated the number of days persons from the banned*

*countries would be barred from entering the US.*

*CNN's Ryan Browne and Jeremy Diamond contributed to this report.*



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# EXHIBIT N

[thebrodyfile](http://thebrodyfile.com)

## Brody File Exclusive: President Trump Says Persecuted Christians Will Be Given Priority As Refugees

01-27-2017

[David Brody](#)


In an exclusive interview with The Brody File, President Donald Trump says persecuted Christians will be given priority when it comes to applying for refugee status in the United States. “We are going to help them,” President Trump tells CBN News. “They’ve been horribly treated. Do you know if you were a Christian in Syria it was impossible, at least very tough to get into the United States? If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible and the reason that was so unfair, everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians. And I thought it was very, very unfair.”

The Brody File conducted the interview Friday morning in the Blue Room at The White House. More newsworthy clips are coming soon. The entire interview can be seen this Sunday at 11pm on Freeform (cable TV, formerly ABC Family Channel) during our special CBN News show. This is just the third interview President Trump has done from The White House and it will be the only interview that will air in its’ entirety this weekend.

### MANDATORY VIDEO AND COURTESY: CBN NEWS/THE BRODY FILE

**DAVID BRODY:** “Persecuted Christians, we’ve talked about this, the refugees overseas. The refugee program, or the refugee changes you’re looking to make. As it relates to persecuted Christians, do you see them as kind of a priority here?”

**PRESIDENT TRUMP:** “Yes.”

**DAVID BRODY:** “You do?”

**PRESIDENT TRUMP:** “They’ve been horribly treated. Do you know if you were a Christian in Syria it was impossible, at least very tough to get into the United States? If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible and the reason that was so unfair, everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians. And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them.”

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# EXHIBIT O

**The New York Times** | <https://nyti.ms/2kcXwk4>

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POLITICS

# Trump Bars Refugees and Citizens of 7 Muslim Countries

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR and HELENE COOPER JAN. 27, 2017

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Friday closed the nation’s borders to refugees from around the world, ordering that families fleeing the slaughter in Syria be indefinitely blocked from entering the United States, and temporarily suspending immigration from several predominantly Muslim countries.

In an executive order that he said was part of an extreme vetting plan to keep out “radical Islamic terrorists,” Mr. Trump also established a religious test for refugees from Muslim nations: He ordered that Christians and others from minority religions be granted priority over Muslims.

“We don’t want them here,” Mr. Trump said of Islamist terrorists during a signing ceremony at the Pentagon. “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.”

Earlier in the day, Mr. Trump explained to an interviewer for the Christian Broadcasting Network that Christians in Syria were “horribly treated” and alleged that under previous administrations, “if you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible.”

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In fact, the United States accepts tens of thousands of Christian refugees. According to the Pew Research Center, almost as many Christian refugees (37,521) were admitted as Muslim refugees (38,901) in the 2016 fiscal year.

The executive order suspends the entry of refugees into the United States for 120 days and directs officials to determine additional screening "to ensure that those approved for refugee admission do not pose a threat to the security and welfare of the United States."

The order also stops the admission of refugees from Syria indefinitely, and bars entry into the United States for 90 days from seven predominantly Muslim countries linked to concerns about terrorism. Those countries are Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen.

Additionally, Mr. Trump signed a memorandum on Friday directing what he called "a great rebuilding of the armed services," saying it would call for budget negotiations to acquire new planes, new ships and new resources for the nation's military.

"Our military strength will be questioned by no one, but neither will our dedication to peace," Mr. Trump said.

Announcing his "extreme vetting" plan, the president invoked the specter of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Most of the 19 hijackers on the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Shanksville, Pa., were from Saudi Arabia. The rest were from the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Lebanon. None of those countries are on Mr. Trump's visa ban list.

Human rights activists roundly condemned Mr. Trump's actions, describing them as officially sanctioned religious persecution dressed up to look like an effort to make the United States safer.

The International Rescue Committee called it "harmful and hasty." The American Civil Liberties Union described it as a "euphemism for discriminating

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order would harm families around the world who are threatened by authoritarian governments.

“The refugees impacted by today’s decision are among the world’s most vulnerable people — women, children, and men — who are simply trying to find a safe place to live after fleeing unfathomable violence and loss,” Mr. Offensheiser said.

The president signed the executive order shortly after issuing a statement noting that Friday was International Holocaust Remembrance Day, an irony that many of his critics highlighted on Twitter. The statement did not mention Jews, although it cited the “depravity and horror inflicted on innocent people by Nazi terror.”

Mr. Trump’s actions came during a swearing-in ceremony for Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, a former Marine general. Standing in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon, Mr. Trump hailed the members of America’s military as “the backbone of this country” and described Mr. Mattis as a “man of action.” The president mistakenly referred to Mr. Mattis as a “soldier,” a term abhorred by Marines.

Mr. Trump has been deferential to Mr. Mattis, who has quickly established himself as a top aide whose advice the president is willing to take. On Friday, Mr. Trump said he would let Mr. Mattis “override” him by banning torture during terror interrogations even though Mr. Trump believes the tactics do work in getting information from suspects.

In a remarkable show of deference to his own subordinate, Mr. Trump said during an earlier news conference Friday morning with Theresa May, the British prime minister, that he would let Mr. Mattis decide about whether to use torture in interrogations. Mr. Mattis has said he does not believe torture is effective.

“I don’t necessarily agree, but I will tell you that he will override because I’m giving him that power,” Mr. Trump said. “I’m going to rely on him. I happen to feel that it does work.”

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Mr. Trump appeared to be struggling with the issue even as he spoke, returning several times to his own belief in the effectiveness of torture even as he stated that he would let Mr. Mattis decide.

“But I’m going with our leaders,” he said. “We are going to win, with or without.”

Then he added, “But I do disagree.”

Mr. Mattis spent his first week as defense secretary trying to reassure not only American allies, but also military rank and file, that the United States will not abandon a national security structure that has stood in place since the end of World War II. He has told officials in the Pentagon building that at an uncertain time, he intends, as defense secretary, to provide an even-keeled, measured approach to national security issues.

Before the signing ceremony, Mr. Trump met with Mr. Mattis and his military chiefs for about an hour. The meeting — which took place in a Pentagon secure room known as “the tank” — included introductions for Mr. Trump to his military chiefs of staff. The meeting was attended by Michael Flynn, the national security adviser; Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and the chiefs of the four services and the National Guard.

The men discussed how to accelerate the fight against the Islamic State and North Korea and how to deal with a host of global challenges, said a defense official who was not authorized to talk publicly about the internal talks. The leaders also discussed how to improve military readiness.

The newly sworn-in secretary of defense also gave Mr. Trump a little of what the president has been asking — or tweeting — for. On Thursday, Mr. Mattis ordered a review of the controversial F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, which has been criticized by Mr. Trump for its cost overruns.

Mr. Mattis also ordered that plans for a new Air Force One — another project

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objective of identifying means to substantially reduce the program's costs while delivering needed capabilities."

The F-35 review, Mr. Mattis said in a memo, will also look at how to reduce costs while still meeting requirements set out for the fighter jet program.

During his confirmation hearings this month, Mr. Mattis defended Twitter messages from Mr. Trump criticizing the F-35 program. Mr. Mattis said at the time that Mr. Trump had "in no way shown a lack of support for the program," adding, "He just wants more bang for the buck."

The cost of building the F-35 next-generation fighter jet has been an issue at the Pentagon for several years. At an estimated \$400 billion over 15 years for 2,443 planes, the fighter jet is the military's largest weapons project.

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A version of this article appears in print on January 28, 2017, on Page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: Trump Targets Muslim Areas in Refugee Ban.

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# EXHIBIT P



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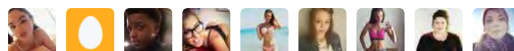
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# EXHIBIT Q

The Fix

# Trump asked for a ‘Muslim ban,’ Giuliani says — and ordered a commission to do it ‘legally’

By Amy B Wang January 29

Former New York mayor Rudy W. Giuliani said President Trump wanted a “Muslim ban” and requested he assemble a commission to show him “the right way to do it legally.”

Giuliani, an early Trump supporter who once had been rumored for a Cabinet position in the new administration, appeared on Fox News late Saturday night to describe how Trump's executive order temporarily banning refugees came together.

Trump signed orders on Friday not only to suspend admission of all refugees into the United States for 120 days but also to implement “new vetting measures” to screen out “radical Islamic terrorists.” Refugee entry from Syria, however, would be suspended indefinitely, and all travel from Syria and six other nations — Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen — is suspended for 90 days. Trump also said he would give priority to Christian refugees over those of other religions, according to the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Fox News host Jeanine Pirro asked Giuliani whether the ban had anything to do with religion.

“How did the president decide the seven countries?” she asked. “Okay, talk to me.”

“I’ll tell you the whole history of it,” Giuliani responded eagerly. “So when [Trump] first announced it, he said, ‘Muslim ban.’ He called me up. He said, ‘Put a commission together. Show me the right way to do it legally.’”

Giuliani said he assembled a “whole group of other very expert lawyers on this,” including former U.S. attorney general Michael Mukasey, Rep. Mike McCaul (R-Tex.) and Rep. Peter T. King (R-N.Y.).

“And what we did was, we focused on, instead of religion, danger — the areas of the world that create danger for us,” Giuliani told Pirro. “Which is a factual basis, not a religious basis. Perfectly legal, perfectly sensible. And that’s what the ban is based

on. It's not based on religion. It's based on places where there are substantial evidence that people are sending terrorists into our country.”

It was unclear when the phone call Giuliani took place and when the commission began working. An email to the White House press office was not immediately returned Sunday.

Clips of the exchange between Giuliani and Pirro quickly went viral Saturday night, with some claiming that Giuliani's statement amounted to admitting Trump's intent had been to institute a ban based on religion.

Others, including Trump senior adviser Kellyanne Conway and White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, have insisted it is not a ban on Muslims, but rather one based on countries from which travel was already restricted under Barack Obama's administration.

Priebus appeared on CBS's “Face the Nation” Sunday morning to say it was possible Trump would expand the list of countries included in the travel ban.

“You can point to other countries that have similar problems, like Pakistan and others,” Priebus told host John Dickerson. “Perhaps we need to take it further.”

Priebus also said there had been weeks of work and “plenty of communication” between the White House, the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security regarding the ban.

“We didn't just type this thing up in an office and sign up,” he told Dickerson.

Later on the same program, Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) called out Giuliani's interview with Pirro from the night before.

“They can't deny that this is a Muslim ban,” Ellison told Dickerson. “On the campaign trail, [Trump] said he wanted a Muslim ban. ... Rudolph W. Giuliani who helped him write it said that they started out with the intention of a Muslim ban and then they sort of 'languaged' it up so to try to avoid that label, but it is a religiously based ban.”

Senate Democrats vowed to draft legislation to block the travel ban.

“We're demanding the president reverse these executive orders that go against what we are, everything we have always stood for,” Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said in a news conference Sunday morning, noting later that his middle name, Ellis, was originally inspired by Ellis Island.

“It was implemented in a way that created chaos and confusion across the country, and it will only serve to embolden and inspire those around the globe those that will do us harm,” Schumer added of the ban. “It must be reversed immediately.”



Trump's executive order sparked massive protests at airports around the country Friday and Saturday, as reports surfaced that dozens of travelers from the affected countries, including green-card holders, were being detained.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit Saturday morning challenging Trump's order after two Iraqi men with immigrant visas were barred from entering the United States at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

As Giuliani was speaking, Fox News simultaneously aired an alert that noted federal judge Ann M. Donnelly had issued a stay to stop the deportations nationwide.

Donnelly wrote that there was a strong likelihood the order had violated the petitioners' rights to due process and equal protection by the Constitution.

"There is imminent danger that, absent the stay of removal, there will be substantial and irreparable injury to refugees, visa-holders, and other individuals from nations subject to the January 27, 2017 Executive Order," Donnelly wrote.

The ACLU hailed the victory.

"Clearly the judge understood the possibility for irreparable harm to hundreds of immigrants and lawful visitors to this country," ACLU executive director Anthony D. Romero said in a statement. "Our courts today worked as they should as bulwarks against government abuse or unconstitutional policies and orders. On week one, Donald Trump suffered his first loss in court."

On Sunday, the Department of Homeland Security issued a statement saying it did not plan to back off enforcing Trump's orders.

"President Trump's Executive Orders remain in place — prohibited travel will remain prohibited, and the U.S. government retains its right to revoke visas at any time if required for national security or public safety," the statement read. "President Trump's Executive Order affects a minor portion of international travelers, and is a first step towards reestablishing control over America's borders and national security."

The department said that less than 1 percent of daily international air travelers to the United States had been "inconvenienced" on Saturday.

Matthew Kolken, an immigration attorney based in Buffalo said there has been "a systemic bias against individuals from Muslim countries in the U.S. immigration departments" for years, including under the Obama administration.

"This isn't unprecedented," Kolken told The Washington Post by phone Sunday. "The unfortunate reality is the executive branch does have vast discretionary authority to determine who they are going to [allow in or not]."

Keeping up with politics is easy now.

Still, Kolken said, he believes “Trump has gone a step further without a doubt” in including even people who are lawful permanent residents and suspending all immigration applications from people from the seven countries on the banned list.

If there was evidence of disparate treatment of individuals from the same country — if there were anecdotal evidence of, for example, a Syrian family of one religious background allowed to enter over that of another religious background — then that is where lawsuits could come into play, he said.

“The question becomes whether they’re trying to do an end-around by couching the ban as a country-specific ban based on a security-related issues when in reality it’s a religious ban,” Kolken said.

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[Fact Checker: What you need to know about terror threat from foreigners and Trump’s executive order](#)

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Amy B Wang is a general assignment reporter for The Washington Post. [Follow @amybwang](#)



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# EXHIBIT R

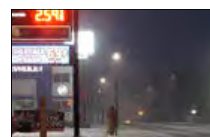


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By REBECCA SHABAD / CBS NEWS / July 25, 2016, 11:04 AM

# Donald Trump says he's expanding his Muslim ban

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Donald Trump said Sunday that the proposal to suspend immigration from any nation compromised by terrorism is actually an expansion of his plan to block Muslims from entering the U.S.

In an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press," the GOP presidential nominee was asked to clarify what he meant in his speech accepting the nomination at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland last week and if it was actually a rollback.

"I don't think so. I actually don't think it's a rollback. In fact, you could say it's an expansion. I'm looking now at territory. People were so upset when I used the word Muslim. Oh, you can't use the word 'Muslim.' Remember this. And I'm okay with that, because I'm talking territory instead of Muslim," Trump told "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd.

In Cleveland Thursday night, Trump said that the U.S. "must immediately suspend immigration from any nation that has been compromised by terrorism until such time as proven vetting mechanisms have been put in place."

Trump added that he only wants to admit people into the U.S. who supports American values and loves Americans.

It's not the first time Trump has characterized his plan this way, which sounds like he could even suspend immigration from countries like France, Belgium and Turkey, which have suffered from terror attacks over the last year or so.

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<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-says-hes-expanding-muslim-ban/>

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**Rebecca Shabad**

Rebecca Shabad is a video reporter for CBS News Digital.

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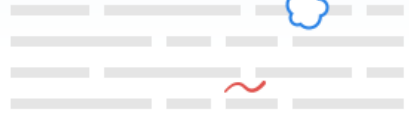


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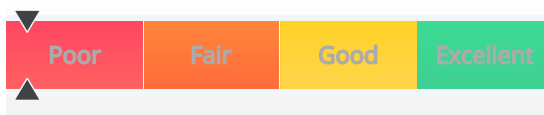
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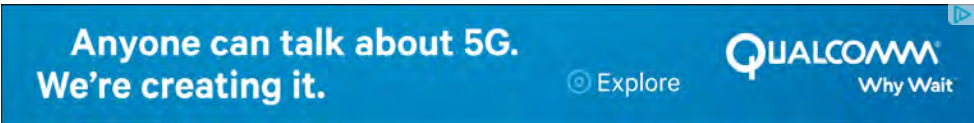
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# EXHIBIT S





**POLITICS** | Fri Feb 3, 2017 | 9:00pm EST

# Trump's travel ban has revoked 60,000 visas for now

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By **Mica Rosenberg** and **Lesley Wroughton** | NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

About 60,000 visas were revoked under U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order temporarily halting immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries, the State Department said on Friday, in one of several government communications clarifying how the order is being rolled out.

The revocation means the government voided travel visas for people trying to enter the United States but the visas could be restored later without a new application, said William Cocks, a spokesman for consular affairs at the State Department.

"We will communicate updates to affected travelers following the 90-day review," he said.

Earlier news reports, citing a government attorney at a federal court hearing, put the figure at more than 100,000 visas.

The government issued over 11 million immigrant and non-immigrant visas in fiscal year 2015, the State Department said.







Niki Rahmati, a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from Iran, is greeted by immigration attorney Susan Church (R) at Logan Airport after she cleared U.S. customs and immigration on an F1 student visa in Boston, Massachusetts, U.S. February 3, 2017. Rahmati was originally turned away from a flight to the U.S. following U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order travel ban. REUTERS/Brian Snyder

The immigration executive order signed by Trump a week ago temporarily halted the U.S. refugee program and imposed a 90-day suspension on people traveling from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Trump said the measures would help protect Americans from terrorist attacks.

Under President Barack Obama, Trump's predecessor, the United States added those seven countries as "countries of concern" under its visa waiver program, effectively toughening U.S. visa procedures for individuals who visited those places during the past five years.

Trump's executive order was at least in part informed by those restrictions. The new president, who took office on Jan. 20, went further by temporarily barring passport holders from those seven countries.

The State Department first issued the guidance about revoking the visas on Jan. 27, the day Trump signed his executive order, according to a memo filed in a court case in Massachusetts.

But confusion about the roll out of the order sparked protests at airports across the country where people had been detained and led to a wave of lawsuits filed by individuals, states and civil rights groups.

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To further clarify how the order should be applied, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) sent out a letter to all of its employees on Feb. 2, according to a copy of the memo seen by Reuters.

**Several states jointly sue to block Trump's revised travel ban**

The memo said the agency was continuing to process all applications and petitions for people inside the United States regardless of their country of origin. It also said all applications for permanent residency and adjustment of status can move forward.

USCIS said they could not discuss internal employee communications.

The Department of Homeland Security had earlier clarified, after some initial back-and-forth, that the order would not apply to green card holders. Also people from the seven countries who hold dual citizenship are allowed to enter the United States on the passport of a non-restricted nation when eligible, according to Feb. 2 guidance posted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection's website.

(Reporting by Lesley Wroughton in Washington and Mica Rosenberg in New York; Editing by Howard Goller and Lisa Shumaker)

#### PHOTOS



Photos of the day

#### NEXT IN POLITICS

### Treasury's Mnuchin to 'push hard' for U.S. interests at G20: official

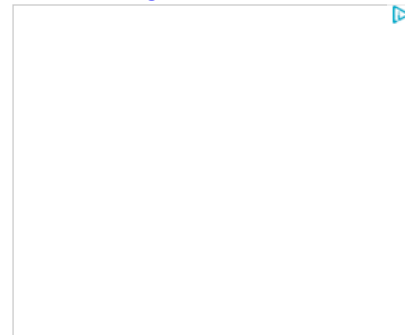


WASHINGTON U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will be "pushing hard" to advance U.S. interests in his first meeting with international counterparts this week, including reaffirming commitments to avoid competitive currency devaluations, a senior Treasury official said on Monday. Mnuchin, who will attend a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 major economies on Friday and Saturday in Germany, will also press countries to use all available too

### Obama lawyers move fast to join fight against Trump



WASHINGTON When Johnathan Smith resigned from the U.S. Justice Department on Inauguration Day, he looked forward to spending time with his infant son, but that plan unraveled a week later when President Donald Trump unveiled his explosive foreign travel ban.



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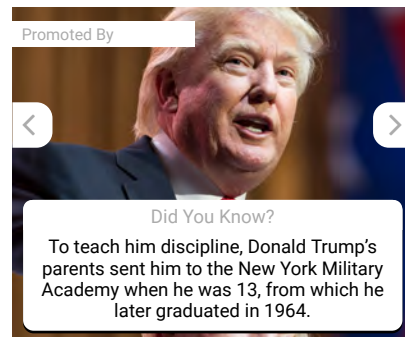
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<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-immigration-visas-idUSKBN15I2EW>

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# EXHIBIT T



**Donald J. Trump**   
@realDonaldTrump

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The threat from radical Islamic terrorism is very real, just look at what is happening in Europe and the Middle-East. Courts must act fast!

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**Jack Schofield** @jackschofield · Feb 7



@realDonaldTrump NONE were from countries you banned, but you still welcome terrorists from countries where you have business interests.

Trump's executive order goes on to argue that "deteriorating conditions in certain countries due to war, strife, disaster, and civil unrest increase the likelihood that terrorists will use any means possible to enter our country." Presumably, the goal is to reduce American deaths from terrorism on U.S. soil, so the deadliness of terrorist attacks matters more than the number of terrorists.

For instance, 114 of the 154 foreign-born terrorists from 1975 to the end of 2015 didn't kill anybody. The three countries where the deadliest terrorists came to the United States from were Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. Together they all accounted for 94.1 percent of all American deaths in terrorist attacks on U.S. soil committed by the foreign-born. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are not beset by any of the supposedly terrorism-increasing problems that are described in this order.

10

20

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**Jack Schofield** @jackschofield · Feb 7



@carrot2222111 Most of the world despises @realDonaldTrump - sad. And at least we're only the world's second most stupid country now ;-)

## Global Expectations Of Trump's Presidency

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% thinking Donald Trump will be a good/bad president (selected countries)

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# EXHIBIT U

# AP Exclusive: DHS report disputes threat from banned nations

By VIVIAN SALAMA (/journalist/vivian-salama) and ALICIA A.

CALDWELL (/content/alicia-caldwell)

Feb. 24, 2017 6:36 PM EST

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### The Latest: Pence says Flynn story affirms Trump decision





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FILE - In this June 5, 2015 file photo, a view of the Homeland Security Department headquarters in...  
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i

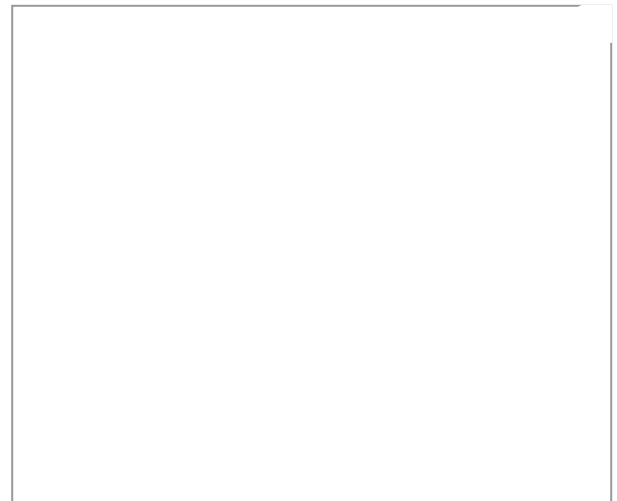
WASHINGTON (AP) — Analysts at the Homeland Security Department's intelligence arm found insufficient evidence that citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries included in President Donald Trump's travel ban pose a terror threat to the United States.

A draft document obtained by The Associated Press concludes that citizenship is an "unlikely indicator" of terrorism threats to the United States and that few people from the countries Trump listed in his travel ban have carried out attacks or been involved in terrorism-related activities in the U.S. since Syria's civil war started in 2011.

Trump cited terrorism concerns as the primary reason he signed the sweeping temporary travel ban in late January, which also halted the U.S. refugee program. A federal judge in Washington state blocked the government from carrying out the order earlier this month. Trump said Friday a new edict would be announced soon. The administration has been working on a new version that could withstand legal challenges.

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The seven countries were included in a law President Barack Obama signed in 2015 that updated visa requirements for foreigners who had traveled to those countries.

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Christensen said the countries were also selected in part because they lacked the ability to properly vet their citizens and don't cooperate with U.S. efforts to screen people hoping to come to the U.S.

The report was prepared as part of an internal review Trump requested after his executive order was blocked by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. It was drafted by staff of the Homeland Security Department's Intelligence and Analysis branch at the direction of its acting leader, David Glawe.

White House spokesman Michael Short said this was not the full report that Trump had requested. He said he believes "the intel community is combining resources to put together a comprehensive report using all available sources, not just open sources, and which is driven by data, not politics."

The intelligence document was circulated beyond Homeland Security.

The draft document reflects the tensions between the president's political appointees and the civil servants tasked with carrying out Trump's ambitious and aggressive agenda. Trump has repeatedly complained about leaks meant to undercut his policies and suggested he does not trust holdovers from the Obama administration.

Trump originally said the ban was necessary to overhaul the vetting system for both refugees and would-be foreign visitors, saying that terrorists may try to exploit weaknesses to gain access to the United States. The order sparked chaos, outrage and widespread protests, with travelers detained at airports and panicked families searching for relatives.

But several courts quickly intervened and the 9th Circuit ultimately upheld a ruling blocking the ban and challenged the administration's claim that it was motivated by terrorism fears.

Trump's ban temporarily barred citizens from the seven countries from coming to the United States for three months. The order also temporarily shut down

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the U.S. refugee program for four months and indefinitely banned anyone from Syria.

A senior administration official told the AP on Sunday that a draft of the revised order will target those same seven countries. The official would not be named discussing the document before it is made public.

In a speech to the Conservative Political Action Committee Friday, Trump reiterated his claims on terrorism.

"We are going to keep radical Islamic terrorists the hell out of our country," Trump said.

He said he singled out the seven countries because they had already been deemed a security concern by the Obama administration.

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Intelligence document available at  
**<http://apne.ws/2ISKNUo>** (**<http://apne.ws/2ISKNUo>**)

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# EXHIBIT V

## POLITICS

# Full Transcript and Video: Trump News Conference

FEB. 16, 2017

*President Trump on Thursday announced his new nominee for labor secretary, Alexander Acosta, during a news conference at the White House. Following is a transcript of that event, as prepared by the Federal News Service.*

For more coverage, read our live analysis.

TRUMP: Thank you very much.

I just wanted to begin by mentioning that the nominee for secretary of the Department of Labor will be Mr. Alex Acosta. He has a law degree from Harvard Law School, was a great student; former clerk for Justice Samuel Alito. And he has had a tremendous career. He's a member and has been a member of the National Labor Relations Board, and has been through Senate confirmation three times, confirmed; did very, very well.

And so Alex, I've wished him the best. We just spoke. And he's going to be — I think he'll be a tremendous secretary of labor.

And also as you probably heard just a little while ago, Mick Mulvaney, former congressman, has just been approved weeks late, I have to say that, weeks, weeks late, Office of Management and Budget. And he will be I think a fantastic addition.

Paul Singer just left. As you know, Paul was very much involved with the anti-Trump or as they say, "never Trump." And Paul just left and he's given us his total support.

And it's all about unification. We're unifying the party and hopefully we're going to be able to unify the country. It's very important to me. I've been talking about that for a long time. It's very, very important to me.

So I want to thank Paul Singer for being here and for coming up to the office. He was a very strong opponent, and now he's a very strong ally. And I appreciate that.

I think I'll say a few words, and then we'll take some questions. And I had this time. We've been negotiating a lot of different transactions to save money on contracts that were terrible, including airplane contracts that were out of control and late and terrible; just absolutely catastrophic in terms of what was happening. And we've done some really good work. We're very proud of that.

And then right after that, you prepare yourselves, we'll do some questions, unless you have enough questions. That's always a possibility.

I'm here today to update the American people on the incredible progress that has been made in the last four weeks since my inauguration. We have made incredible progress. I don't think there's ever been a president elected who in this short period of time has done what we've done.

A new Rasmussen poll, in fact — because the people get it — much of the media doesn't get it. They actually get it, but they don't write it. Let's put it that way. But a new Rasmussen poll just came out just a very short while ago, and it has our approval rating at 55 percent and going up. The stock market has hit record numbers, as you know. And there has been a tremendous surge of optimism in the business world, which is — to me means something much different than it used to. It used to mean, "Oh, that's good." Now it means, "That's good for jobs." Very different.

Plants and factories are already starting to move back into the United States, and big league — Ford, General Motors, so many of them. I'm making this presentation directly to the American people, with the media present, which is an honor to have you. This morning, because many of our nation's reporters and folks will not tell you the truth, and will not treat the wonderful people of our country with the respect that they deserve. And I hope going forward we can be a little bit — a

little bit different, and maybe get along a little bit better, if that's possible. Maybe it's not, and that's OK, too.

TRUMP: Unfortunately, much of the media in Washington, D.C., along with New York, Los Angeles in particular, speaks not for the people, but for the special interests and for those profiting off a very, very obviously broken system. The press has become so dishonest that if we don't talk about, we are doing a tremendous disservice to the American people. Tremendous disservice. We have to talk to find out what's going on, because the press honestly is out of control. The level of dishonesty is out of control.

I ran for president to present the citizens of our country. I am here to change the broken system so it serves their families and their communities well. I am talking — and really talking on this very entrenched power structure, and what we're doing is we're talking about the power structure; we're talking about its entrenchment. As a result, the media is going through what they have to go through too often times distort — not all the time — and some of the media is fantastic, I have to say — they're honest and fantastic.

But much of it is not a — the distortion — and we'll talk about it, you'll be able to ask me questions about it. But we're not going to let it happen, because I'm here again, to take my message straight to the people. As you know, our administration inherited many problems across government and across the economy. To be honest, I inherited a mess. It's a mess. At home and abroad, a mess. Jobs are pouring out of the country; you see what's going on with all of the companies leaving our country, going to Mexico and other places, low pay, low wages, mass instability overseas, no matter where you look. The Middle East is a disaster. North Korea — we'll take care of it folks; we're going to take care of it all. I just want to let you know, I inherited a mess.

Beginning on day one, our administration went to work to tackle these challenges. On foreign affairs, we've already begun enormously productive talks with many foreign leaders, much of it you've covered, to move forward towards stability, security and peace in the most troubled regions of the world, which there are many. We have had great conversations with the United Kingdom, and meetings. Israel,



Mexico, Japan, China and Canada, really, really productive conversations. I would say far more productive than you would understand.

We've even developed a new council with Canada to promote women's business leaders and entrepreneurs. It's very important to me, very important to my daughter Ivanka. I have directed our defense community headed by our great general, now Secretary Mattis. He's over there now working very hard to submit a plan for the defeat of ISIS, a group that celebrates the murder and torture of innocent people in large sections of the world. It used to be a small group, now it's in large sections of the world.

They've spread like cancer. ISIS has spread like cancer — another mess I inherited. And we have imposed new sanctions on the nation of Iran, whose totally taken advantage of our previous administration, and they're the world's top sponsor of terrorism, and we're not going to stop until that problem is properly solved. And it's not properly solved now, it's one of the worst agreements I've ever seen drawn by anybody. I've ordered plan to begin building for the massive rebuilding of the United States military. Had great support from the Senate, I've had great from Congress, generally.

We've pursued this rebuilding in the hopes that we will never have to use this military, and I will tell you that is my — I would be so happy if we never had to use it. But our country will never have had a military like the military we're about to build and rebuild. We have the greatest people on earth in our military, but they don't have the right equipment and their equipment is old. I used it; I talked about it at every stop. Depleted, it's depleted — it won't be depleted for long. And I think one of the reason I'm standing here instead of other people is that frankly, I talked about we have to have a strong military.

We have to have a strong law enforcement also. So we do not go abroad in the search of war, we really are searching for peace, but its peace through strength. At home, we have begun the monumental task of returning the government back to the people on a scale not seen in many, many years. In each of these actions, I'm keeping my promises to the American people. These are campaign promises. Some people are so surprised that we're having strong borders.



Well, that's what I've been talking about for a year and a half, strong borders. They're so surprised, oh, he having strong borders, well that's what I've been talking about to the press and to everybody else. One promise after another after years of politicians lying to you to get elected. They lied to the American people in order to get elected. Some of the things I'm doing probably aren't popular but they're necessary for security and for other reasons.

And then coming to Washington and pursuing their own interests which is more important to many politicians. I'm here following through on what I pledged to do. That's all I'm doing. I put it out before the American people, got 306 Electoral College votes. I wasn't supposed to get 222. They said there's no way to get 222, 230's impossible.

270 which you need, that was laughable. We got 306 because people came out and voted like they've never seen before so that's the way it goes. I guess it was the biggest Electoral College win since Ronald Reagan. In other words, the media's trying to attack our administration because they know we are following through on pledges that we made and they're not happy about it for whatever reason.

And — but a lot of people are happy about it. In fact, I'll be in Melbourne, Florida five o'clock on Saturday and I heard — just heard that the crowds are massive that want to be there. I turn on the T.V., open the newspapers and I see stories of chaos. Chaos. Yet it is the exact opposite. This administration is running like a fine-tuned machine, despite the fact that I can't get my cabinet approved.

And they're outstanding people like Senator Dan Coats who's there, one of the most respected men of the Senate. He can't get approved. How do you not approve him? He's been a colleague — highly respected. Brilliant guy, great guy, everybody knows it. We're waiting for approval. So we have a wonderful group of people that's working very hard, that's being very much misrepresented about and we can't let that happen.

So, if the Democrats who have — all you have to do is look at where they are right now. The only thing they can do is delay because they screwed things up royally, believe me. Let me list to you some of the things that we've done in just a

short period of time. I just got here. And I got here with no cabinet. Again, each of these actions is a promise I made to the American people.

I'll go over just some of them and we have a lot happening next week and in the weeks — in the weeks coming. We've withdrawn from the job-killing disaster known as Trans Pacific Partnership. We're going to make trade deals but we're going to have one on one deals, bilateral. We're going to have one on one deals.

We've directed the elimination of regulations that undermine manufacturing and call for expedited approval of the permits needed for America and American infrastructure and that means plant, equipment, roads, bridges, factories. People take 10, 15, 20 years to get disapproved for a factory. They go in for a permit, it's many, many years. And then at the end of the process — they spend 10s of millions of dollars on nonsense and at the end of the process, they get rejected.

Now, they may be rejected with me but it's going to be a quick rejection. Not going to take years. But mostly it's going to be an acceptance. We want plants built and we want factories built and we want the jobs. We don't want the jobs going to other countries. We've imposed a hiring freeze on nonessential federal workers. We've imposed a temporary moratorium on new federal regulations.

We've issued a game-changing new rule that says for each one new regulation, two old regulations must be eliminated. Makes sense. Nobody's ever seen regulations like we have. You go to other countries and you look at indexes (ph) they have and you say "let me see your regulations" and they're fraction, just a tiny fraction of what we have. And I want regulations because I want safety, I want environmental — all environmental situations to be taken properly care of. It's very important to me. But you don't need four or five or six regulations to take care of the same thing.

We've stood up for the men and women of law enforcement, directing federal agencies to ensure they are protected from crimes of violence. We've directed the creation of a task force for reducing violent crime in America, including the horrendous situation — take a look at Chicago and others, taking place right now in our inner cities. Horrible.

We've ordered the Department of Homeland Security and Justice to coordinate on a plan to destroy criminal cartels coming into the United States with drugs. We're becoming a drug infested nation. Drugs are becoming cheaper than candy bars. We are not going to let it happen any longer.

We've undertaken the most substantial border security measures in a generation to keep our nation and our tax dollars safe. And are now in the process of beginning to build a promised wall on the southern border, met with general — now Secretary Kelly yesterday and we're starting that process. And the wall is going to be a great wall and it's going to be a wall negotiated by me. The price is going to come down just like it has on everything else I've negotiated for the government. And we are going to have a wall that works, not gonna have a wall like they have now which is either nonexistent or a joke.

We've ordered a crackdown on sanctuary cities that refuse to comply with federal law and that harbor criminal aliens, and we have ordered an end to the policy of catch and release on the border. No more release. No matter who you are, release. We have begun a nationwide effort to remove criminal aliens, gang members, drug dealers and others who pose a threat to public safety. We are saving American lives every single day.

The court system has not made it easy for us. And are even creating a new office in Homeland Security dedicated to the forgotten American victims of illegal immigrant violence, which there are many. We have taken decisive action to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of our country. No parts are necessary and constitutional actions were blocked by judges, in my opinion, incorrect, and unsafe ruling. Our administration is working night and day to keep you safe, including reporters safe. And is vigorously defending this lawful order.

I will not back down from defending our country. I got elected on defense of our country. I keep my campaign promises, and our citizens will be very happy when they see the result. They already are, I can tell you that. Extreme vetting will be put in place and it already is in place in many places.

In fact, we had to go quicker than we thought because of the bad decision we received from a circuit that has been overturned at a record number. I have heard 80

percent, I find that hard to believe, that is just a number I heard, that they are overturned 80 percent of the time. I think that circuit is — that circuit is in chaos and that circuit is frankly in turmoil. But we are appealing that, and we are going further.

We're issuing a new executive action next week that will comprehensively protect our country. So we'll be going along the one path and hopefully winning that, at the same time we will be issuing a new and very comprehensive order to protect our people. That will be done sometime next week, toward the beginning or middle at the latest part. We have also taken steps to begin construction of the Keystone Pipeline and Dakota Access Pipelines. Thousands and thousands of jobs, and put new buy American measures in place to require American steel for American pipelines. In other words, they build a pipeline in this country, and we use the powers of government to make that pipeline happen, we want them to use American steel. And they are willing to do that, but nobody ever asked before I came along. Even this order was drawn and they didn't say that.

TRUMP: And I'm reading the order, I'm saying, why aren't we using American steel? And they said, that's a good idea, we put it in. To drain the swamp of corruption in Washington, D.C., I've started by imposing a five-year lobbying ban on White House officials and a lifetime ban on lobbying for a foreign government.

We've begun preparing to repeal and replace Obamacare. Obamacare is a disaster, folks. It is's disaster. I know you can say, oh, Obamacare. I mean, they fill up our alleys with people that you wonder how they get there, but they are not the Republican people our that representatives are representing.

So we've begun preparing to repeal and replace Obamacare, and are deep in the midst of negotiations on a very historic tax reform to bring our jobs back, to bring our jobs back to this country. Big league. It's already happening. But big league.

I've also worked to install a cabinet over the delays and obstruction of Senate Democrats. You've seen what they've done over the last long number of years. That will be one of the great cabinets ever assembled in American history.

You look at Rex Tillerson. He's out there negotiating right now. General Mattis I mentioned before, General Kelly. We have great, great people. Mick is with us now. We have great people.

Among their responsibilities will be ending the bleeding of jobs from our country and negotiating fair trade deals for our citizens.

Now look, fair trade. Not free, fair. If a country is taking advantage of us, not going to let that happen anymore. Every country takes advantage of us almost. I may be able to find a couple that don't. But for the most part, that would be a very tough job for me to do.

Jobs have already started to surge. Since my election, Ford announced it will abandon its plans to build a new factory in Mexico, and will instead invest \$700 million in Michigan, creating many, many jobs.

Fiat Chrysler announced it will invest \$1 billion in Ohio and Michigan, creating 2,000 new American jobs. They were with me a week ago. You know you were here.

General Motors likewise committed to invest billions of dollars in its American manufacturing operation, keeping many jobs here that were going to leave. And if I didn't get elected, believe me, they would have left. And these jobs and these things that I'm announcing would never have come here.

Intel just announced that it will move ahead with a new plant in Arizona that probably was never going to move ahead with. And that will result in at least 10,000 American jobs.

Walmart announced it will create 10,000 jobs in the United States just this year because of our various plans and initiatives. There will be many, many more, many more, these are a few that we're naming.

Other countries have been taking advantage of us for decades — decades, and decades, and decades, folks. And we're not going to let that happen anymore. Not going to let it happen.

And one more thing, I have kept my promise to the American people by nominating a justice of the United States Supreme Court, Judge Neil Gorsuch, who is from my list of 20, and who will be a true defender of our laws and our Constitution, highly respected, should get the votes from the Democrats. You may not see that. But he'll get there one way or the other. But he should get there the old-fashioned way, and he should get those votes.

This last month has represented an unprecedented degree of action on behalf of the great citizens of our country. Again, I say it. There has never been a presidency that's done so much in such a short period of time. And we have not even started the big work yet. That starts early next week.

Some very big things are going to be announced next week. So we are just getting started. We will be giving a speech, as I said, in Melbourne, Florida, at 5:00 p.m. I hope to see you there.

And with that, I just say, God bless America, and let's take some questions.

Mara (ph), Mara (ph), go ahead. You were cut off pretty violently at our last news conference.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)

TRUMP: Mike Flynn is a fine person, and I asked for his resignation. He respectfully gave it. He is a man who there was a certain amount of information given to Vice President Pence, who is with us today. And I was not happy with the way that information was given.

He didn't have to do that, because what he did wasn't wrong — what he did in terms of the information he saw. What was wrong was the way that other people, including yourselves in this room, were given that information, because that was classified information that was given illegally. That's the real problem.

And, you know, you can talk all you want about Russia, which was all a, you know, fake news, fabricated deal, to try and make up for the loss of the Democrats and the press plays right into it. In fact, I saw a couple of the people that were



supposedly involved with all of this — that they know nothing about it; they weren't in Russia; they never made a phone call to Russia; they never received a phone call.

It's all fake news. It's all fake news. The nice thing is, I see it starting to turn, where people are now looking at the illegal — I think it's very important — the illegal, giving out classified information. It was — and let me just tell you, it was given out like so much.

I'll give you an example. I called, as you know, Mexico. It was a very, very confidential, classified call. But I called Mexico. And in calling Mexico, I figured, oh, well that's — I spoke to the president of Mexico; I had a good call. All of a sudden, it's out there for the world to see. It's supposed to be secret. It's supposed to be either confidential or classified, in that case.

Same thing with Australia. All of a sudden, people are finding out exactly what took place. The same thing happened with respect to General Flynn. Everybody saw this. And I'm saying — the first thing I thought of when I heard about it is: How does the press get this information that's classified? How do they do it?

You know why? Because it's an illegal process and the press should be ashamed of themselves. But more importantly, the people that gave out the information to the press should be ashamed of themselves, really ashamed.

Yes, go ahead.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)

TRUMP: Because when I looked at the information, I said, "I don't think he did anything wrong; if anything, he did something right." He was coming into office. He looked at the information. He said, "Huh, that's fine." That's what they're supposed to do. They're supposed to — he didn't just call Russia. He called and spoke to both ways, I think there were 30-some-odd countries. He's doing the job.

You know, he was doing his job. The thing is, he didn't tell our vice president properly, and then he said he didn't remember. So either way, it wasn't very satisfactory to me. And I have somebody that I think will be outstanding for the position. And that also helps, I think, in the making of my decision.

But he didn't tell the vice president of the United States the facts. And then he didn't remember. And that just wasn't acceptable to me.

Yes?

QUESTION: (inaudible) clarification here. During your campaign, did anyone from your team (inaudible) Russian government or Russian intelligence? And if so, what was the nature of those conversations (inaudible)? TRUMP: The failing New York Times wrote a big, long front-page story yesterday. And it was very much discredited, as you know. It was — it's a joke. And the people mentioned in the story, I notice they were on television today saying they never even spoke to Russia. They weren't even a part, really — I mean, they were such a minor part. They — I hadn't spoken to them.

I think the one person — I don't think I've ever spoken to him. I don't think I've ever met him. And he actually said he was a very low-level member of I think a committee for a short period of time. I don't think I ever met him. Now, it's possible that I walked into a room and he was sitting there, but I don't think I ever met him. I didn't talk to him ever. And he thought it was a joke.

The other person said he never spoke to Russia; never received a call. Look at his phone records, et cetera, et cetera. And the other person, people knew that he represented various countries, but I don't think he represented Russia, but knew that he represented various countries. That's what he does. I mean, people know that.

That's Mr. Manafort, who's — by the way, who's by the way a respected man. He's a respected man. But I think he represented the Ukraine or Ukraine government or somebody, but everybody — people knew that. Everybody knew that.

So, these people — and he said that he has absolutely nothing to do and never has with Russia. And he said that very forcefully. I saw his statement. He said it very forcefully. Most of the papers don't print it because that's not good for their stories.

TRUMP: So the three people that they talked about all totally deny it. And I can tell you, speaking for myself, I own nothing in Russia. I have no loans in Russia.



I don't have any deals in Russia. President Putin called me up very nicely to congratulate me on the win of the election.

He then, called me up extremely nicely to congratulate me on the inauguration, which was terrific. But so did many other leaders, almost all other leaders from almost all of the country. So that's the extent.

Russia is fake news. Russia — this is fake news put out by the media. The real news is the fact that people, probably from the Obama administration because they're there, because we have our new people going in place, right now.

As you know, Mike Pompeo has — has now taken control of the CIA, James Comey at FBI, Dan Coats is waiting to be approved, I mean he is a senator and a highly respected one and he's still waiting to be approved. But our new people are going in.

And just while you're at it, because you mentioned this, Wall Street Journal did a story today that was almost as disgraceful as the failing New York Time's story, yesterday. And it talked about — these are (ph) front page.

So director of national intelligence just put out, acting a statement, any suggestion that the United States intelligence community, this was just given to us, is withholding information and not providing the best possible intelligence to the president and his national security team is not true.

So they took this front page story out of The Wall Street Journal top and they just wrote the story that its not true. And I'll tell you something, I'll be honest, because I sort of enjoy this back and forth that I guess I have all my life but I've never seen more dishonest media than frankly, the political media. I thought the financial media was much better, much more honest.

But I will say that, I never get phone calls from the media. How did they write a story like that in The Wall Street Journal without asking me or how did they write a story in The New York Times, put it on front page?

That was like the story they wrote about the women and me, front page, big massive story. And it was nasty and then they called, they said we never said that, we

like Mr. Trump. They called up my office, we like Mr. Trump, we never said that.

And it was totally — they totally misrepresented those very wonderful women, I have to tell you, totally misrepresented. I said give us the retraction. They never gave us a retraction and frankly, I then went on to other things.

OK, go ahead.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) said today that you have big intellectual margins (inaudible) 300 or more (ph), or 350 (ph) electoral (ph) votes. President Obama about 365 (OFF-MIKE).

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: Yeah.

QUESTION: Obama (OFF-MIKE) 426 on (OFF-MIKE). So why should Americans...

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: ...I'm skipping that information, I don't know, I was just given (ph) we had a very, very big margin.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) why should Americans trust you (OFF-MIKE) the information (OFF-MIKE)?

TRUMP: Well, I don't know, I was given that information. I was given — I actually, I've seen that information around. But it was a very substantial victory, do you agree with that? OK thank you, that's...

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: Go ahead Sir, yes?

QUESTION: Can you tell us in determining that Lieutenant General Flynn did — whether there was no wrongdoing in your mind, what evidence was weighed? Did you ask for transcripts of these telephone intercepts with Russian officials, particularly the Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, who he was communicating with?

What— what evidence did you weigh to determine that there was no wrongdoing? Further to that, Sir, you said on a couple of locations this morning, you are going to aggressively pursue the source of these leaks.

TRUMP: We are.

QUESTION: Can we ask what you're going to do and also, we've heard about a — a review of the intelligence community headed up by Steven Feinberg, what can you tell us about that?

TRUMP: Well, first of all about that, we now have Dan Coats, hopefully soon, Mike Pompeo and James Comey and they're in position so I hope that we'll be able to straighten that out without using anybody else.

The gentleman you mentioned is a very talented man, very successful man and he's offered his services and you know, it's something we may take advantage of. But I don't think we need that at all because of the fact that you know, I think that we are gonna be able to straighten it out very easily on its own.

As far as the general's concerned, when I first heard about it, I said huh, that doesn't sound wrong. My counsel came, Don McGahn, White House Counsel, and he told me and I asked him, he can speak very well for himself. He said he doesn't think anything is wrong, you know, really didn't think.

It was really, what happened after that but he didn't think anything was done wrong. I didn't either because I waited a period of time and I started to think about it, I said "well I don't see" — to me, he was doing the job.

The information was provided by — who I don't know, Sally Yates. And I was a little surprised because I said "doesn't sound like he did anything wrong there." But he did something wrong with respect to the vice president and I thought that was not acceptable. As far as — as far as the actual making the call, fact I've watched various programs and I've read various articles where he was just doing his job.

That was very normal. You know, first everybody got excited because they thought he did something wrong. After they thought about it, it turned out he was

just doing his job. So — and I do. And by the way, with all of that being said, I do think he's a fine man.

QUESTION: Sir, if I could, on the leaks — on the leaks, sir...

TRUMP: ...Go ahead. Finish off then I'll get you.

QUESTION: I'm sorry. What will you do on the leaks? You've said twice today...

TRUMP: ...Yes, we're looking at them very — very, very serious. I've gone to all of the folks in charge of the various agencies and we're — I've actually called the Justice Department to look into the leaks. Those are criminal leaks. They're put out by people either in agencies — I think you'll see it stopping because now we have our people in. You know, again, we don't have our people in because we can't get them approved by the Senate.

We just had Jeff Sessions approved. Injustice, as an example (ph). So, we are looking into that very seriously. It's a criminal act. You know what I say, when I — when I was called out on Mexico, I was shocked because all this equipment, all this incredible phone equipment — when I was called out on Mexico, I was — honestly, I was really, really surprised.

But I said “you know, it doesn't make sense. That won't happen” but that wasn't that important a call, it was fine, I could show it to the world and he could show it to the world, the president who's a very fine man, by the way. Same thing with Australia. I said “that's terrible that it was leaked” but it wasn't that important. But then I said to myself “what happens when I'm dealing with the problem of North Korea?”

What happens when I'm dealing with the problems in the Middle East? Are you folks going to be reporting all of that very, very confidential information, very important, very — you know, I mean at the highest level? Are you going to be reporting about that too? So, I don't want classified information getting out to the public and in a way that was almost a test.

So I'm dealing with Mexico, I'm dealing with Argentina, we were dealing on this case with Mike Flynn. All this information gets put into the “Washington Post” and

gets put into the “New York Times” and I’m saying “what’s going to happen when I’m dealing on the Middle East? What’s going to happen when I’m dealing with really, really important subjects like North Korea?”

We got to stop it. That’s why it’s a criminal penalty.

QUESTION: I just want to get you to clarify this very important point. Can you say definitively that nobody on your campaign had any contacts with the Russians during the campaign? And on the leaks, is it fake news or are these real leaks?

TRUMP: Well the leaks are real. You’re the one that wrote about them and reported them, I mean the leaks are real. You know what they said, you saw it and the leaks are absolutely real. The news is fake because so much of the news is fake. So one thing that I felt it was very important to do — and I hope we can correct it. Because there’s nobody I have more respect for — well, maybe a little bit but the reporters, good reporters.

It’s very important to me and especially in this position. It’s very important. I don’t mind bad stories. I can handle a bad story better than anybody as long as it’s true and, you know, over a course of time, I’ll make mistakes and you’ll write badly and I’m OK with that. But I’m not OK when it is fake. I mean, I watch CNN, it’s so much anger and hatred and just the hatred.

I don’t watch it any more because it’s very good — he’s saying no. It’s OK, Jim (ph). It’s OK, Jim (ph), you’ll have your chance. But I watch others too. You’re not the only one so don’t feel badly. But I think it should be straight. I think it should be — I think it would be frankly more interesting. I know how good everybody’s ratings are right now but I think that actually — I think that’d actually be better.

People — I mean, you have a lower approval rate than Congress. I think that’s right. I don’t know, Peter (ph), is that one right? Because you know I think they have lower — I heard lower than Congress. But honestly, the public would appreciate it, I’d appreciate it — again, I don’t mind bad stories when it’s true but we have an administration where the Democrats are making it very difficult.

TRUMP: I think we're setting a record or close to a record in the time of approval of a cabinet. I mean, the numbers are crazy. When I'm looking, some of them had them approved immediately.

I'm going forever and I still have a lot of people that we're waiting for. And that's all they're doing, is delaying. And you look at Schumer and the mess that he's got over there and they have nothing going. The only thing they can do is delay. And, you know, I think that they'd be better served by, you know, approving and making sure that they're happy and everybody's good.

And sometimes — I mean, I know President Obama lost three or four, and you lose them on the way, and that's OK. That's fine. But I think it would — I think they would be much better served, John, if they just went through the process quickly. This is pure delay tactics.

And they say it, and everybody understands it. Yeah, go ahead, Jimmy.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)

TRUMP: Well, I had nothing to do with it. I have nothing to do with Russia. I told you, I have no deals there, I have no anything. Now, when WikiLeaks, which I had nothing to do with, comes out and happens to give, they're not giving classified information. They're giving stuff — what was said at an office about Hillary cheating on the debates.

Which, by the way, nobody mentions. Nobody mentions that Hillary received the questions to the debates. Can you imagine — seriously — can you imagine if I received the questions? It would be the electric chair. OK, he should be put in the electric — you would even call for the reinstitution of the death penalty, OK. Maybe not you John. Yes? We'll do you next Jim, I do you next(ph).

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE) clarify —

TRUMP: Yes, yes, sure

QUESTION: Did you direct Mike Flynn to discuss sanctions with the Russian ambassador —

TRUMP: No, I didn't.

QUESTION: — prior to your — TRUMP: No, I didn't.

QUESTION: — inauguration.

TRUMP: No, I didn't.

QUESTION: And then fired him —

TRUMP: Excuse me.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)

TRUMP: No, I fired him because of what he said to Mike Pence. Very simple. Mike was doing his job. He was calling countries and his counterparts. So, it certainly would have been OK with me if he did it. I would have directed him to do it if I thought he wasn't doing it.

I didn't direct him, but I would have directed him because that's his job. And it came out that way — and in all fairness, I watched Dr. Charles Krauthammer the other night say he was doing his job and I agreed with him. And since then, I've watched many other people say that.

No, I didn't direct him, but I would have directed him if he didn't do it. OK? Jim?

QUESTION: Thank you very much, and just for the record, we don't hate you. I don't hate you.

TRUMP: OK.

QUESTION: So, pass that along —

TRUMP: Ask — ask Jeff Zucker how he got his job. OK?

QUESTION: If I may follow up on some of the questions that have taken place so far here, sir —



TRUMP: Well, that's — well, you know, we do have other people. You do have other people and your ratings aren't as good as some of the other people that are waiting.

QUESTION: It's pretty good right now, actually.

TRUMP: OK, go ahead, John.

QUESTION: If I may ask, sir, you said earlier that WikiLeaks was revealing information about the Hillary Clinton campaign during the election cycle. You welcomed that. At one time —

TRUMP: I was OK with it.

QUESTION: — you said — you said that you loved WikiLeaks. At another campaign press conference you called on the Russians to find the missing 30,000 e-mails. I'm wondering, sir, if you — TRUMP: Well, she was actually missing 33 and then that got extended with a pile after that.

QUESTION: Then(ph), your(ph) numbers(ph) were off too.

TRUMP: No — no, but I did say 30. But it was actually higher than that.

QUESTION: If — if I may ask you, sir, it — it sounds as though you do not have much credibility here when it comes to leaking if that is something that you encouraged during(ph) the campaign —

TRUMP: OK, fair question. Ready?

QUESTION: Well, if I may ask you that —

TRUMP: No — no, but let me do one at a time.

QUESTION: If I may as a follow up?

TRUMP: Do you mind?

QUESTION: Yes, sir.



TRUMP: All right. So, in one case, you're talking about highly classified information. In the other case, you're talking about John Podesta saying bad things about the boss. I will say this, if John Podesta said that about me and he was working for me, I would have fired him so fast your head would have spun.

He said terrible things about her. But it wasn't classified information. But in one case, you're talking about classified — regardless, if you look at the RNC, we had a very strong — at my suggestion — and I give Reince great credit for this — at my suggestion, because I know something about this world, I said I want a very strong defensive mechanism.

I don't want to be hacked. And we did that. And you have seen that they tried to hack us and they failed. The DNC did not do that. And if they did it, they could not have been hacked. But they were hacked and terrible things came in. And, you know, the only thing that I do think is unfair is some of the things were so — they were — when I heard some of those things I picked up the papers the next morning and said, oh, this is going to be front page, it wasn't even in the papers.

Again, if I had that happen to me, it would be the biggest story in the history of publishing or the head of newspapers. I would have been headline in every newspaper. I mean, think of it. They gave her the questions to a debate and she — and she should have reported herself.

Why did Hillary Clinton announce that, "I'm sorry, but I have been given the questions to a debate or a town hall, and I feel that it's inappropriate, and I want to turn in CNN for not doing a good job." QUESTION: And if I may follow up on that, just something that Jonathan Karl (ph) was asking you about. You said that the leaks are real, but the news is fake. I guess I don't understand. It seems that there's a disconnect there. If the information coming from those leaks is real, then how can the stories be fake?

TRUMP: The reporting is fake. Look, look...

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: You know what it is? Here's the thing. The public isn't — you know, they read newspapers, they see television, they watch. They don't know if it's true or false because they're not involved. I'm involved. I've been involved with this stuff all my life. But I'm involved. So I know when you're telling the truth or when you're not. I just see many, many untruthful things.

And I'll tell you what else I see. I see tone. You know the word "tone." The tone is such hatred. I'm really not a bad person, by the way. No, but the tone is such — I do get good ratings, you have to admit that — the tone is such hatred.

I watched this morning a couple of the networks. And I have to say, Fox & Friends in the morning, they're very honorable people. They're very — not because they're good, because they hit me also when I do something wrong. But they have the most honest morning show. That's all I can say. It's the most honest.

But the tone, Jim. If you look — the hatred. The, I mean, sometimes — sometimes somebody gets...

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: Well, you look at your show that goes on at 10 o'clock in the evening. You just take a look at that show. That is a constant hit. The panel is almost always exclusive anti-Trump. The good news is he doesn't have good ratings. But the panel is almost exclusive anti-Trump. And the hatred and venom coming from his mouth; the hatred coming from other people on your network.

Now, I will say this. I watch it. I see it. I'm amazed by it. And I just think you'd be a lot better off, I honestly do. The public gets it, you know. Look, when I go to rallies, they turn around, they start screaming at CNN. They want to throw their placards at CNN. You know.

I — I think you would do much better by being different. But you just take a look. Take a look at some of your shows in the morning and the evening. If a guest comes out and says something positive about me, it's — it's brutal.

Now, they'll take this news conference — I'm actually having a very good time, OK? But they'll take this news conference — don't forget, that's the way I won.

Remember, I used to give you a news conference every time I made a speech, which was like every day. OK?

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: No, that's how I won. I won with news conferences and probably speeches. I certainly didn't win by people listening to you people. That's for sure. But I'm having a good time.

Tomorrow, they will say, "Donald Trump rants and raves at the press." I'm not ranting and raving. I'm just telling you. You know, you're dishonest people. But — but I'm not ranting and raving. I love this. I'm having a good time doing it.

But tomorrow, the headlines are going to be, "Donald Trump rants and raves." I'm not ranting and raving.

Go ahead.

QUESTION: If I may, just one more followup...

TRUMP: Should I let him have a little bit more? What do you think, Peter? Peter, should I have — let him have a little bit more?

Sit down. Sit down. We'll...

(CROSSTALK)

QUESTION: Just because of the attack of fake news and attacking our network, I just want to ask you, sir...

TRUMP: I'm changing it from fake news, though.

QUESTION: Doesn't that under...

TRUMP: Very fake news.

QUESTION: ... I know, but aren't you...

(LAUGHTER)

TRUMP: Go ahead.

QUESTION: Real news, Mr. President, real news.

TRUMP: And you're not related to our new...

QUESTION: I am not related, sir. No. I do like the sound of Secretary Acosta, I must say.

TRUMP: I looked — you know, I looked at that name. I said, wait a minute, is there any relation there? Alex Acosta.

QUESTION: I'm sure you checked that out, sir.

TRUMP: OK. Now I checked it — I said — they said, "No, sir." I said, "Do me a favor, go back and check the family tree."

QUESTION: But aren't you — aren't you concerned, sir, that you are undermining the people's faith in the First Amendment, freedom of the press, the press in this country, when you call stories you don't like "fake news"? Why not just say it's a story I don't like.

TRUMP: I do that.

QUESTION: When you call it "fake news," you're undermining confidence in our news media (inaudible) important.

TRUMP: No, no. I do that. Here's the thing. OK. I understand what you're — and you're right about that, except this. See, I know when I should get good and when I should get bad. And sometimes I'll say, "Wow, that's going to be a great story." And I'll get killed.

I know what's good and bad. I'd be a pretty good reporter, not as good as you. But I know what's good. I know what's bad. And when they change it and make it really bad, something that should be positive — sometimes something that should be very positive, they'll make OK. They'll even make it negative.

So I understand it. So, because I'm there. I know what was said. I know who's saying it. I'm there. So it's very important to me.

Look, I want to see an honest press. When I started off today by saying that it's so important to the public to get an honest press. The press — the public doesn't believe you people anymore. Now, maybe I had something to do with that. I don't know. But they don't believe you. If you were straight and really told it like it is, as Howard Cosell used to say, right?

Of course, he had some questions also. But if you were straight, I would be your biggest booster. I would be your biggest fan in the world, including bad stories about me. But if you go — as an example, you're CNN, I mean it's story after story after story is bad. I won. I won. And the other thing, chaos because zero chaos. We are running — this is a fine-tuned machine and Reince happens to be doing a good job but half of his job is putting out lies by the press (ph).

You know, I said to him yesterday this whole Russia scam that you guys are building so that you don't talk about the real subject which is illegal leaks, but I watched him yesterday working so hard to try and get that story proper. And I'm saying "here's my chief of staff," a really good guy, did a phenomenal job at RNC. I mean, he won the election, right?

We won the presidency. We got some senators, we got some — all over the country, you take a look, he's done a great job. And I said to myself, you know — and I said to somebody that was in the room, I said "you take a look at Reince, he's working so hard just putting out fires that are fake fires." I mean, they're fake. They're not true. And isn't that a shame because he'd rather be working on healthcare, he'd rather be working on tax reform, Jim (ph).

I mean that. I would be your biggest fan in the world if you treated me right. I sort of understand there's a certain bias maybe by Jeff (ph) or somebody, you know — you know, whatever reason. But — and I understand that. But you've got to be at least a little bit fair and that's why the public sees it. They see it. They see it's not fair. You take a look at some of your shows and you see the bias and the hatred.

And the public is smart, they understand it. Go ahead.

QUESTION: (inaudible) ...for those who believe that there is something to it, is there anything that you have learned over the last few weeks that you might be able to reveal that might ease their concerns that this isn't fake news? And second...

TRUMP: ...I think they don't believe it. I don't think the public — that's why the Rasmussen poll just has me through the roof. I don't think they believe it. Well, I guess one of the reasons I'm here today is to tell you the whole Russian thing, that's a ruse. That's a ruse. And by the way, it would be great if we could get along with Russia, just so you understand that.

Now tomorrow, you'll say "Donald Trump wants to get along with Russia, this is terrible." It's not terrible. It's good. We had Hillary Clinton try and do a reset. We had Hillary Clinton give Russia 20 percent of the uranium in our country. You know what uranium is, right? This thing called nuclear weapons like lots of things are done with uranium including some bad things.

Nobody talks about that. I didn't do anything for Russia. I've done nothing for Russia. Hillary Clinton gave them 20 percent of our uranium. Hillary Clinton did a reset, remember? With the stupid plastic button that made us all look like a bunch of jerks. Here, take a look. He looked at her like, what the hell is she doing with that cheap plastic button?

Hillary Clinton — that was the reset, remember it said reset? Now if I do that, oh, I'm a bad guy. If we could get along with Russia, that's a positive thing. We have a very talented man, Rex Tillerson, who's going to be meeting with them shortly and I told him. I said "I know politically it's probably not good for me." The greatest thing I could do is shoot that ship that's 30 miles off shore right out of the water.

Everyone in this country's going to say "oh, it's so great." That's not great. That's not great. I would love to be able to get along with Russia. Now, you've had a lot of presidents that haven't taken that tack. Look where we are now. Look where we are now. So, if I can — now, I love to negotiate things, I do it really well, and all that stuff. But — but it's possible I won't be able to get along with Putin.

Maybe it is. But I want to just tell you, the false reporting by the media, by you people, the false, horrible, fake reporting makes it much harder to make a deal with

Russia. And probably Putin said “you know.” He’s sitting behind his desk and he’s saying “you know, I see what’s going on in the United States, I follow it closely. It’s going to be impossible for President Trump to ever get along with Russia because of all the pressure he’s got with this fake story.” OK?

And that’s a shame because if we could get along with Russia — and by the way, China and Japan and everyone. If we could get along, it would be a positive thing, not a negative thing.

QUESTION: Is tax reform on the line (ph)?

QUESTION: Mr. President? Mr. President? Mr. President, since you...

TRUMP: Tax reform is going to happen fairly quickly. We’re doing Obamacare. We’re in final stages. We should be submitting the initial plan in March, early March, I would say. And we have to, as you know, statutorily and for reasons of budget, we have to go first. It’s not like, frankly, the tax would be easier, in my opinion, but for statutory reasons and for budgetary reasons, we have to submit the healthcare sooner.

So we’ll be submitting healthcare sometime in early March, mid- March. And after that, we’re going to come up, and we’re doing very well on tax reform.

Yes?

QUESTION: Mr. President, you mentioned Russia. Let’s talk about some serious issues that have come up in the last week that you have had to deal with as president of the United States.

TRUMP: OK.

QUESTION: You mentioned the vessel — the spy vessel off the coast of the United States.

TRUMP: Not good.

QUESTION: There was a ballistic missile test that many interpret as a violation of an agreement between the two countries; and a Russian plane buzzed a U.S.



destroyer.

TRUMP: Not good.

QUESTION: I listened to you during the campaign ...

TRUMP: Excuse me, excuse me. When did it happen? It happened when, if you were Putin right now, you would say, “Hey, we’re back to the old games with the United States; there’s no way Trump can ever do a deal with us.” Because the — you have to understand. If I was just brutal on Russia right now, just brutal, people would say, you would say, “Oh, isn’t that wonderful.” But I know you well enough.

Then you would say, “Oh, he was too tough; he shouldn’t have done that.” Look, all of the...

(CROSSTALK)

QUESTION: I’m just trying to find out your orientation to those...

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: Wait a minute. Wait, wait. Excuse me just one second.

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: All of those things that you mentioned are very recent, because probably Putin assumes that he’s not going to be able to make a deal with me because it’s politically not popular for me to make a deal. So Hillary Clinton tries a reset. It failed. They all tried. But I’m different than those people.

Go ahead.

QUESTION: How are you interpreting those moves? And what do you intend to do about them? Have you given Rex Tillerson any advice or counsel on how to deal?

TRUMP: I have. I have. And I’m so beautifully represented. I’m so honored that the Senate approved him. He’s going to be fantastic.

Yes, I think that I’ve already...



QUESTION: Is Putin testing you, do you believe, sir?

TRUMP: No, I don't think so. I think Putin probably assumes that he can't make a deal with me anymore because politically it would be unpopular for a politician to make a deal. I can't believe I'm saying I'm a politician, but I guess that's what I am now.

Because, look, it would be much easier for me to be tough on Russia, but then we're not going to make a deal.

Now, I don't know that we're going to make a deal. I don't know. We might. We might not. But it would be much easier for me to be so tough — the tougher I am on Russia, the better. But you know what? I want to do the right thing for the American people. And to be honest, secondarily, I want to do the right thing for the world.

If Russia and the United States actually got together and got along — and don't forget, we're a very powerful nuclear country and so are they. There's no upside. We're a very powerful nuclear country and so are they. I have been briefed. And I can tell you one thing about a briefing that we're allowed to say because anybody that ever read the most basic book can say it, nuclear holocaust would be like no other.

They're a very powerful nuclear country and so are we. If we have a good relationship with Russia, believe me, that's a good thing, not a bad thing.

QUESTION: So when you say they're not good, do you mean that they are...

TRUMP: Who did I say is not good?

QUESTION: No, I read off the three things that have recently happened. Each one of them you said they're not good.

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: No, it's not good, but they happened.

QUESTION: But do they damage the relationship? Do they undermine...

TRUMP: They all happened recently.

No...

(CROSSTALK)

QUESTION: ... this country's ability to work with Russia?

TRUMP: They all happened recently. And I understand what they're doing because they're doing the same thing.

Now, again, maybe I'm not going to be able to do a deal with Russia, but at least I will have tried. And if I don't, does anybody really think that Hillary Clinton would be tougher on Russia than Donald Trump? Does anybody in this room really believe that? OK?

But I tell you one thing, she tried to make a deal. She had the reset. She gave all that valuable uranium away. She did other things. You know, they say I'm close to Russia. Hillary Clinton gave away 20 percent of the uranium in the United States. She's close to Russia.

QUESTION: Can we...

TRUMP: I gave — you know what I gave to Russia? You know what I gave? Nothing.

QUESTION: Can we conclude there will be no response to these particular provocations?

TRUMP: I'm not going to tell you anything about what response I do. I don't talk about military response. I don't say I'm going into Mosul in four months. "We are going to attack Mosul in four months." Then three months later, "We are going to attack Mosul in one month." "Next week, we are going to attack Mosul."

In the meantime, Mosul is very, very difficult. Do you know why? Because I don't talk about military, and I don't talk about certain other things, you're going to be surprised to hear that. And by the way, my whole campaign, I'd say that. So I don't have to tell you. I don't want to be one of these guys that say, "Yes, here's what

we're going to do." I don't have to do that. I don't have to tell you what I'm going to do in North Korea.

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: Wait a minute. I don't have to tell you what I'm going to do in North Korea. And I don't have to tell you what I'm going to do with Iran. You know why? Because they shouldn't know. And eventually, you guys are going to get tired of asking that question.

TRUMP: So when you ask me what am I going to do with a ship, the Russian ship as an example, I'm not going to tell you. But hopefully, I won't have to do anything, but I'm not going to tell you.

OK.

QUESTION: Could I just ask you — thank you very much, Mr. President. The trouble...

TRUMP: Where are you from?

QUESTION: BBC.

TRUMP: Here's another beauty.

QUESTION: That's a good line. Impartial, free and fair.

TRUMP: Yeah. Sure.

QUESTION: Mr. President...

TRUMP: Just like CNN right?

QUESTION: On the travel ban — we could banter back and forth. On the travel ban would you accept that that was a good example of the smooth running of government...

TRUMP: Yeah, I do. I do. Let me tell you about this government...

QUESTION: Were there any mistakes...

TRUMP: Wait. Wait. I know who you are. Just wait.

Let me tell you about the travel ban. We had a very smooth rollout of the travel ban. But we had a bad court. Got a bad decision. We had a court that's been overturned. Again, may be wrong. But I think it's 80 percent of the time, a lot.

We had a bad decision. We're going to keep going with that decision. We're going to put in a new executive order next week some time. But we had a bad decision.

That's the other thing that was wrong with the travel ban. You had Delta with a massive problem with their computer system at the airports. You had some people that were put out there, brought by very nice busses, and they were put out at various locations.

Despite that the only problem that we had is we had a bad court. We had a court that gave us what I consider to be, with great respect, a very bad decision. Very bad for the safety and security of our country. The rollout was perfect.

Now, what I wanted to do was do the exact same executive order, but said one thing. I said this to my people. Give them a one-month period of time. But Gen. Kelly, now Sec. Kelly, said if you do that, all these people will come in and (inaudible) the bad ones.

You do agree there are bad people out there, right? That not everybody that's like you. You have some bad people out there.

Kelly said you can't do that. And he was right. As soon as he said it I said wow, never thought of it. I said how about one week? He said no good. You got to do it immediately because if you do it immediately they don't have time to come in.

Now nobody ever reports that. But that's why we did it quickly.

Now, if I would've done it a month, everything would've been perfect. The problem is we would've wasted a lot of time, and maybe a lot of lives because a lot of

bad people would've come into our country.

Now in the meantime, we're vetting very, very strongly. Very, very strongly. But we need help. And we need help by getting that executive order passed.

QUESTION: Just a brief follow-up. But if it's so urgent, why not introduce...

TRUMP: Yes? Go ahead.

QUESTION: Thank you. I was just hoping that we could get a yes or no answer on one of these questions involving Russia. Can you say whether you are aware that anyone who advised your campaign had contacts with Russia during the course of the election?

TRUMP: Well I told you, Gen. Flynn obviously was dealing. So that's one person. But he was dealing, as he should have been.

QUESTION: During the election?

TRUMP: No. Nobody that I know of. Nobody...

QUESTION: So you're not aware of any contact during the course..

TRUMP: Look, look, look...

QUESTION: ... of the election?

TRUMP: How many times do I have to answer this question?

QUESTION: Can you just say yes or no? TRUMP: Russia is a ruse.

I know you have to get up and ask a question. It's so important.

Russia is a ruse. I have nothing to do with Russia. Haven't made a phone call to Russia in years. Don't speak to people from Russia. Not that I wouldn't. I just have nobody to speak to.

I spoke to Putin twice. He called me on the election. I told you this. And he called me on the inauguration, a few days ago.

We had a very good talk, especially the second one, lasted for a pretty long period of time. I'm sure you probably get it because it was classified. So I'm sure everybody in this room perhaps has it. But we had a very, very good talk.

I have nothing to do with Russia. To the best of my knowledge no person that I deal with does.

Now, Manafort has totally denied it. He denied it. Now people knew that he was a consultant over in that part of the world for a while, but not for Russia. I think he represented Ukraine or people having to do with Ukraine, or people that — whoever. But people knew that. Everybody knew that.

QUESTION: But in his capacity as your campaign manager, was he in touch with Russian officials during the election?

TRUMP: You know what? He said no. I could only tell you what he — now he was replaced long before the election. You know that, right?

He was replaced long before the election. When all of this stuff started coming out, it came out during the election. But Paul Manafort, who's a good man also by the way, Paul Manafort was replaced long before the election took place. He was only there for a short period of time.

QUESTION: Mr. President...

TRUMP: How much longer should we stay here, folks?

QUESTION: Mr. President...

TRUMP: Five more minutes. Is that OK? Five?

QUESTION: Mr. President, on national...

TRUMP: Wait. Let's see. Who's — I want to find a friendly reporter.

QUESTION: Mr....

TRUMP: Are you a friendly reporter? Watch how friendly he is. Wait. Wait. Watch how friendly he is. Go ahead.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)...

TRUMP: Go ahead.

QUESTION: So first of all, my name is (Inaudible) from (Inaudible) Magazine. I (inaudible). I haven't seen anybody in my community, including yourself or any of the — anyone on your staff of being (OFF-MIKE).

Because (OFF-MIKE). However, what we've already heard about and what we (OFF-MIKE) is (OFF-MIKE) so you're general forecast (ph) like 48 (OFF-MIKE). There are people who are everything (ph) happens through their packs (ph) is one of the (OFF-MIKE)...

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: ...he said he was gonna ask a very simple, easy question. And it's not, its not, not — not a simple question, not a fair question. OK sit down, I understand the rest of your question.

So here's the story, folks. Number one, I am the least anti- Semitic person that you've ever seen in your entire life. Number two, racism, the least racist person. In fact, we did very well relative to other people running as a Republican — quiet, quiet, quiet.

See, he lied about — he was gonna get up and ask a very straight, simple question, so you know, welcome to the world of the media. But let me just tell you something, that I hate the charge, I find it repulsive.

I hate even the question because people that know me and you heard the prime minister, you heard Ben Netanyahu (ph) yesterday, did you hear him, Bibi? He said, I've known Donald Trump for a long time and then he said, forget it.

So you should take that instead of having to get up and ask a very insulting question like that.

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: Yeah, go ahead. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Thank you, I'm Lisa (ph) from the...

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: See, it just shows you about the press, but that's the way the press is.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President. Lisa DeJardown (ph) from the PBS News Hour. On national security and immigration, can you give us more details on the executive order you plan for next week? Even its broad outlines?

TRUMP: Yeah.

QUESTION: Will it be focused on specific...

TRUMP: It's a very fair question.

QUESTION: ...countries? And in addition, on the DACA program for immigration.

TRUMP: Right.

QUESTION: What is your plan, do you plan to continue that program or to end it?

TRUMP: We're gonna show great heart, DACA is a very, very difficult subject for me, I will tell you. To me, it's one of the most difficult subjects I have because you have these incredible kids.

In many cases, not in all cases. And some of the cases, having DACA and they're gang members and they're drug dealers, too. But you have some absolutely, incredible kids, I would say mostly. They were brought here in such a way — it's a very — it's a very, very tough subject.

We're gonna deal with DACA with heart. I have to deal with a lot of politicians, don't forget and I have to convince them that what I'm saying is — is right. And I appreciate your understanding on that.

But the DACA situation is a very, very — it's a very difficult thing for me because you know, I love these kids, I love kids, I have kids and grandkids. And I find it very,



very hard doing what the law says exactly to do and you know, the law is rough.

I'm not talking about new laws, I'm talking the existing law, is very rough, it's very, very rough. As far as the new order, the new order is going to be very much tailored to the what I consider to be a very bad decision.

But we can tailor the order to that decision and get just about everything, in some ways, more. But we're tailoring it now to the decision, we have some of the best lawyers in the country working on it.

And the new executive order, is being tailored to the decision we got down from the court. OK?

QUESTION: Mr. President...

**(CROSSTALK) QUESTION:** ...reopening of the White House Visitors Office?

TRUMP: Yes.

QUESTION: And she does a lot of great work for the country as well (ph). Can you talk a little bit about what's first for (ph) Melania Trump does for the country and (inaudible) so opening White House Visitors Office, what does that mean...

TRUMP: Now, that's what I call a nice question. That is very — who are you with?

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)

TRUMP: Good, I'm gonna start watching, all right? Thank you very much. Melania's terrific, she was here last night, we had dinner with Senator Rubio and his wife who is by the way, lovely.

And we had a really good discussion about Cuba because we have very similar views on Cuba. And Cuba was very good to me in the Florida election, as you know the Cuban Americans. And I think that Melania's gonna be outstanding, that's right, she just opened up the visitors center, in other words, touring of the White House.

She, like others that she's working with, feel very, very strongly about women's issue, women's difficulties. Very, very strongly, she's a very, very strong advocate. I think she's a great representative for this country.

And a funny thing happens, because she gets — she gets so unfairly — Melania, the things they say. I've known her for a long time, she was a very successful person, she was a very successful model. She did really well.

She would go home at night and didn't even want to go out with people. She was a very private person. She was always the highest quality that you'll ever find. And the things they say — I've known her for a long time — the things they say are so unfair. And actually, she's been apologized to, as you know, by various media because they said things that were lies.

I'll just tell you this. I think she's going to be a fantastic first lady. She's going to be a tremendous representative of women and of the people. And helping her and working her will be Ivanka, who is a fabulous person and a fabulous, fabulous woman. And they're not doing this for money.

They're not doing this for pay, they're doing this because they feel it; both of them. And Melania goes back and forth and after Barron finishes school — because it's hard to take a child out of school with a few months left — she and Barron will be moving over to the White House. OK, thank you, that's a very nice question.

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: Go ahead. QUESTION: Mr. Trump?

TRUMP: Yes, oh, this is going to be a bad question, but that's OK.

QUESTION: It doesn't(ph) have(ph) to be a bad question.

TRUMP: Good, because I enjoy watching you on television. Go ahead.

QUESTION: Well, thank you so much. Mr. President, I need to find out from you, you said something as it relates to inner cities. That was one of your platforms during your campaign. Now you're —

TRUMP: Fix the inner cities.

QUESTION: — president. Fixing the inner cities.

TRUMP: Yep.

QUESTION: What will be that fix and your urban agenda as well as your HBCU Executive Order that's coming out this afternoon? See, it wasn't bad, was it?

TRUMP: That was very professional and very good.

QUESTION: I'm very professional.

TRUMP: We'll be announcing the order in a little while and I'd rather let the order speak for itself. But it could be something that I think that will be very good for everybody concerned. But we'll talk to you about that after we do the announcement. As far as the inner cities, as you know, I was very strong on the inner cities during the campaign.

I think it's probably what got me a much higher percentage of the African American vote than a lot of people thought I was going to get. We did, you know, much higher than people thought I was going to get. And I was honored by that, including the Hispanic vote, which was also much higher.

And by the way, if I might add, including the women's vote, which was much higher than people thought I was going to get. So, we are going to be working very hard on the inner cities, having to do with education, having to do with crime. We're going to try and fix as quickly as possible — you know, it takes a long time.

It's taken more a hundred years and more for some of these places to evolve and they evolved, many of them, very badly. But we're going to be working very hard on health and healthcare, very, very hard on education, and also we're going to be working in a stringent way, in a very good way, on crime.

You go to some of these inner city places and it's so sad when you look at the crime. You have people — and I've seen this, and I've sort of witnessed it — in fact, in

two cases I have actually witnessed it. They lock themselves into apartments, petrified to even leave, in the middle of the day.

They're living in hell. We can't let that happen. So, we're going to be very, very strong. That's a great question and — and it's a — it's a very difficult situation because it's been many, many years. It's been festering for many, many years. But we have places in this country that we have to fix.

We have to help African American people that, for the most part, are stuck there. Hispanic American people. We have Hispanic American people that are in the inner cities and their living in hell. I mean, you look at the numbers in Chicago. There are two Chicagos, as you know.

There's one Chicago that's incredible, luxurious and all — and safe. There's another Chicago that's worse than almost any of the places in the Middle East that we talk, and that you talk about, every night on the newscasts. So, we're going to do a lot of work on the inner cities.

I have great people lined up to help with the inner cities. OK?

QUESTION: Well, when you say the inner cities, are you going — are you going to include the CBC, Mr. President, in your conversations with your — your urban agenda, your inner city agenda, as well as —

TRUMP: Am I going to include who?

QUESTION: Are you going to include the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional —

TRUMP: Well, I would. I tell you what, do you want to set up the meeting?

QUESTION: — Hispanic Caucus —

TRUMP: Do you want to set up the meeting?

QUESTION: No — no — no. I'm not —

TRUMP: Are they friends of yours?

QUESTION: I'm just a reporter.

TRUMP: Well, then(ph) set up the meeting.

QUESTION: I know some of them, but I'm sure they're watching right now.

TRUMP: Let's go set up a meeting. I would love to meet with the Black Caucus. I think it's great, the Congressional Black Caucus. I think it's great. I actually thought I had a meeting with Congressman Cummings and he was all excited. And then he said, well, I can't move, it might be bad for me politically. I can't have that meeting.

I was all set to have the meeting. You know, we called him and called him. And he was all set. I spoke to him on the phone, very nice guy.

QUESTION: I hear he wanted that meeting with you as well.

TRUMP: He wanted it, but we called, called, called and can't make a meeting with him. Every day I walk and say I would like to meet with him because I do want to solve the problem. But he probably was told by Schumer or somebody like that, some other lightweight. He was probably told — he was probably told “don't meet with Trump. It's bad politics.”

And that's part of the problem in this country. OK, one more.

QUESTION: (inaudible)

TRUMP: No, no, one question. Two we can't handle. This room can't handle two. Go ahead, give me the better of your two.

QUESTION: (inaudible) ...not about your personality or your beliefs, talking about (inaudible), some of it by supporters in your name. What do you...

TRUMP: ...And some of it — can I be honest with you? And this has to do with racism and horrible things that are put up. Some of it written by our opponents. You do know that. Do you understand that? You don't think anybody would do a thing like that. Some of the signs you'll see are not put up by the people that love or like Donald Trump, they're put up by the other side and you think it's like playing it straight?

No. But you have some of those signs and some of that anger is caused by the other side. They'll do signs and they'll do drawings that are inappropriate. It won't be my people. It will be the people on the other side to anger people like you. OK.

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: Go ahead, go ahead.

QUESTION: You're the president now. What are you going to do about it?

TRUMP: Who is that? Where is that?

QUESTION: What are you going to do about — what are you going to do about (inaudible).

TRUMP: Oh, I'm working on it. I'm working on it very — no, no, look. Hey, just so you understand, we had a totally divided country for eight years and long before that. In all fairness to President Obama, long before President Obama we have had a very divided — I didn't come along and divide this country. This country was seriously divided before I got here.

We're going to work on it very hard. One of the questions I was asked, I thought it was a very good question was about the inner cities. I mean, that's part of it. But we're going to work on education, we're going to work on — you know, we're going to stop — we're going to try and stop the crime. We have great law enforcement officials, we're going to try and stop crime.

We're not going to try and stop, we're going to stop crime. But it's very important to me — but this isn't Donald Trump that divided a nation. We went eight years with President Obama and we went many years before President Obama. We lived in a divided nation. And I am going to try — I will do everything within my power to fix that. I want to thank everybody very much.

It's a great honor to be with you. Thank you. Thank you very much, thanks.

END

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# EXHIBIT W

## Trump Delaying Revamped Immigration Order Until Next Week, Official Says

by **Jennifer Jacobs**

February 22, 2017, 6:12 PM EST

President Donald Trump is delaying until next week issuing a new version of his order restricting immigration and banning travel to the U.S. from seven predominantly Muslim countries, according to a White House official.

Trump had said that a revamped executive order, tailored to address legal issues that blocked his original travel ban, would be released this week. The White House official, who wasn't authorized to discuss internal deliberations, didn't give a reason for the delay.

Trump's Jan. 27 executive order stopping all refugee resettlement in the U.S. and travel into the country from seven nations was blocked by a federal judge in Seattle. The Trump administration lost an attempt to reverse the temporary order when a federal appeals court sided against it.

"The new order is going to be very much tailored to what I consider a very, very bad decision," Trump said at a White House news conference last Thursday. "We can tailor the order to the decision to get just as much."

The original order barred citizens of Syria, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Libya or Sudan from entering the U.S. for 90 days.

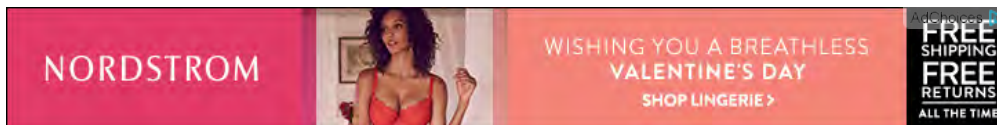
The administration on Tuesday outlined a sweeping crackdown on undocumented immigrants that officials said would result in the swift deportation of many more people without court hearings and target migrants charged with crimes or thought to be dangerous, not just convicts.

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## Read: Full transcript of Trump's rally speech in Florida

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Jared Leone - Cox Media Group National Content Desk

Updated 8:15 p.m Saturday, Feb. 18, 2017 Filed in [National news](#)



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President Donald Trump addressed thousands of supporters during a campaign rally Saturday in Melbourne, Florida.

**>>Read *Trump speaks to thousands of supporters at Florida rally, brings one onstage***

Here is a full transcript of Trump's remarks according to [C-Span](#) and [Vox](#):

*Thank you, everybody, thank you. I didn't know that Melania was going to be saying the Lord's Prayer, but I thought that was very beautiful, thank you, thank you.*

*It's so great to be here in Florida. My second home with you. This is a state I truly love. This is a state where we all had great victory together. Thank you.*

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*It's now been a month since my inauguration. And I am here to tell you about our incredible progress in making America great again. I'm also here to tell you about our plans for the future and they're big and they're bold and it's what our country is all about, believe me.*

*I'm here because I want to be among my friends and among the people. This was a great movement, a movement like has never been seen before in our country our probably anywhere else. This was a truly great movement And I want to be here with you, and I will always be with you. I promise you that. I want to be in a room filled with hard working American patriots who love their country, who salute their flag and who pray for a better future.*

*I also want to speak to you without the filter of the fake news. The dishonest media which has published one false story after another with no sources, even though they pretend they have them, they make them up in many cases, they just don't want to report the truth and they've been calling us wrong now for two years. They don't get it. By they're starting to get it. I can tell you that. They've become a big part of the problem. They are part of the corrupt system. Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and Abraham Lincoln and many of our greatest presidents fought with the media and called them out often times on their lies. When the media lies to people, I will never, ever let them get away with it. I will do whatever I can that. They don't get away with it.*

*They have their own agenda and their agenda is not your agenda. In fact, Thomas Jefferson said, "nothing can be believed which is seen in a newspaper." "Truth itself," he said, "becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle," that was June 14, my birthday, 1807. But despite all their lies, misrepresentations, and false stories, they could not defeat us in the primaries, and they could not defeat us in the general election, and we will continue to expose them for what they are, and most importantly, we will continue to win, win, win.*

*We are not going to let the fake news tell us what to do, how to live, or what to believe. We are free and independent people and we will make our own choices.*

*We are here today to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I hear your demands, I hear your voices and I promise you I will deliver. I promise that. And by the way, you've seen what we've accomplished in a very short period of time. The White House is running so smoothly. So smoothly. And believe me, I and we inherited one big mess. That I can tell you, but I know that you want safe neighborhoods where the streets belong to families and communities, not gang members and drug dealers who are right now as I speak being thrown out of the country and they will not be let back in.*

*We will have strong borders again, and I mean that. You've seen it in television. You've seen it on television. General Kelly, now Secretary Kelly, he's really doing the job. You're seeing it. The gang members, bad, bad people. I said day one, and they're going out. Or they're being put in prison, but for the most part, get them the hell out of here. Bring them back to where they came from.*

*The fact is, you want great schools for your children. You want good high paying jobs for yourselves and for your loved ones and for the future of your*

*submitting in a couple of weeks a great healthcare plan that's going to take the place of the disaster known as Obamacare.*

*It will be repealed and replaced. For those people. The people put into rooms where Republicans are talking about the plan, and it wouldn't matter what they say, for those people just so you understand, our plan will be much better health care at a much lower cost. Okay? Nothing to complain about. Obamacare remember, it is a disaster.*

*You want low cost American energy also, which means lifting the restrictions on oil, on shell, on natural gas and on clean, very clean coal. We're going to put the miners back to work. The miners go back to work.*

*You want us to enforce immigration laws and defend our borders.*

*You want fair trade deals and a level playing field. We don't have a level playing field. Because you understand that when American workers win, America as a country wins and wins big. And every country over the last long period of time has been taking advantage of the [inaudible] of our politicians. It's not going to happen any longer.*

*You want lower taxes. Less regulation. Millions of new jobs and more product stamped with those beautiful, beautiful words, "Made in the USA." You want to make it easy for companies to do business in America. And harder for companies to leave. We don't want companies saying, everybody is fired. We're moving to another country. We're going to make the product. Sell it across the border and isn't that wonderful. Not going happen anymore.*

*We're going to have strong borders and when they want to sell that product back across our border, they're going to pay a 35% tax and you know what, they're never going to leave. They will never, ever leave.*

*And you've seen that because I've already displayed it for the last two months even before I got into office. They're not leaving. And if they do, they're going to pay a big price for terminating the relationship with our workers. You want a government that serves the people not the donors and special interest. You want a government that keeps its promises.*

*A great spirit of optimism is sweeping and you see it. It's sweeping all across the country. Look at what's happening to the stock market. Look at what's happening to the every poll when it comes to optimism in our country. It's sweeping across the country. And, in fact, every day for the last long period of days this stock market means, companies, have been hitting new highs. They're going to start high. It's going to be a new day in America. You're going to be proud again.*

*Jobs are already starting to pour back in. They're coming back in like you haven't seen in a long time. Ford, General Motors, Fiat, Chrysler are bringing in and bringing back thousands of jobs investing billions of dollars because of the new business climate that we are creating in our country. In Arizona, Intel, great company, just announced it will open a new plant that will create at least 10,000 brand new beautiful American jobs.*

*I followed through on my promise to withdraw from the job killing disaster known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership. TPP, we have just terminated our relationship to it. We're going to have tremendous trade deals all over the world, but they're going to be bilateral or as we would say, one-on-one. None of these deals where we get caught in quicksand. Get mired in and we can't do anything about it. By the way, NAFTA and so many others.*

*My administration has begun plans to crack down on foreign cheating and currency manipulation which is killing our companies and really, really hurting our workers. We're going to end it.*

*Within a few days of taking the oath of office, I've taken steps to begin the construction of the Keystone and the Dakota Access Pipelines. Anywhere from 30-40,000 jobs. And very importantly, as I was about to sign it, I said who makes the pipe? Who makes the pipe? Something this audience understands very well, right? Simple question. The lawyers put this very complex document in front. I said, who makes the pipe? They said, sir, it can be made anywhere. I said not anymore. I put a little clause in the bottom. The pipe has to be made in the United States of America if we're going to have pine line.*

*We believe in two simple rules. I can tell you everybody in this massive, this is a massive hanger. For the big planes. And by the way, do you think that one media group back there, one network will show this crowd. Not one. Not one. They won't show the crowd. You know, coming in on the plane, and that plane represented so much.*

*And just so you know, they were close to signing a \$4.2 billion deal to have a new Air Force One. Can you believe this? I said no way. I said I refuse to fly in a \$4.2 billion airplane. I refuse. So I got Boeing and it is actually — a lot of people don't know. The Air Force One project is actually two planes. Why they need to planes, we'll have to talk about that, but they have two planes, but we've got that price down over a billion dollars and I probably have it spoken to be honest with you for honest probably an more than an hour on the project. I got the generals in who are fantastic. I got Boeing in. I told Boeing it's not good enough. We're still not going to do it. The price is still too high. On the fighter jet. We were hundreds of billions of dollars over budget. Seven years late, great plane. A great plane.*

*So think of it. They're seven years late. Hundreds of billions of dollars over-budget. Other than that by the way the project is going extremely well. And I got the folks in from Lockheed Martin who are terrific people and a terrific product by the way. I also got Boeing in. I said do me a favor, give me a competing offer. And now they're competing and fighting and we've gotten hundreds of millions of dollars off the price of a plane that was going to be ordered, in other words, if my opponent got in, there would have been no calls made to them. They would have signed contracts. So they're going to make plenty of money, but it's going to be a lot less than they would have made without Trump. That I can tell you. You might as well know about it. Nobody talks. By the way, that's for fighter jets. One of the biggest orders in the history of aviation. The order for the F-35. You've been reading about it because it was a disaster. Under the last administration. A disaster. And now we have it running beautifully.*

*In fact, when the Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister Abe, was great. Great guy. When he came over, he said, thank you. I said for what. You saved us many, many millions of dollars on the F-35 fighter jet. Because when I negotiated, I took our allies into the same negotiation. So the first thing he did was thanked me for saving them money and that's good. Okay. That's good. I know the media will never thank me so at least Japan is thanking me, right?*

*But we believe in two simple rules. Buy American and hire American. We believe it. We've just issued a new order which requires that for every one new regulation, two old regulations must be eliminated. And by the way, a new director was just approved. Can you imagine the length of time it's taken to Democrats and I actually think it's an embarrassment to them, but this is getting in to be record setting time. Incredible people.*



*Scott Pruitt was just approved, just now approved for the Environmental Protection Agency. He'll do so good. He won't have projects going ten and 12 years and getting rejected. They may be rejected, but they'll be rejected quickly. For the most part, they're going to be accepted. They're going to be environmentally friendly and he is going to be a great Secretary. He will be amazing. We're very happy. That took place yesterday. That's going to be a big difference because they were clogging up the veins of our country with the environmental impact statements and all of the rules and regulations. It was impossible to navigate for companies.*

*And what did it really mean? Forget about the companies? What did it mean. It meant no jobs. It meant companies leaving our country and going to foreign countries to do things they would rather do here. So we're going to have a whole big situation. We are going to unfreeze all of those companies. They are going to be — they're going have freedom. Be able to build what they want to build. It will be environmentally friendly and we're going to start producing jobs like you've never seen before. That's going to happen. That was a big thing.*

*We're standing up for the incredible men and women always of law enforcement. We're standing up. And I can tell you, the military and law enforcement they stood up. I don't say for me. I'm the messenger folks. I'm the messenger. They stood up for us in this last election. We got numbers that nobody believed were possible from law enforcement and from military. Basically people they wear uniforms like us. Isn't that nice. I saw this man on TV just now, you. I just saw him on television. He said I love Trump. Let Trump do what he has to do. That's my guy right there. Come here. Come here. No, I just. I'm coming in. That's okay.*

*Let him up. I'm not worried about him. I'm only worried he's going to give me a kiss. I'm not worried about anything else. This guy is so great. He was one of many people. They're interviewing people in the line. And I have to say, there was a tiny group of protesters out there and they were given as much publicity as this massive room packed with people, but they interviewed this man. Come on up here. Come on up. Guy was great. Hop over the fence. Come on. He can do it. He's in good shape. Look at him. Look at this guy. Come on. This guy is great. Don't worry about him. No, no. Come here. They're going to — come on up. Come here.*

*This guy. So he's been all over television saying the best things and I see him standing and didn't you get here at like 4 in the morning.*

**Greg Huber**

*I did sir.*

Trump

*Say a couple of words to this crowd.*

Huber

*Mr. President, thank you sir. We the people, our movement is the reason why our President of the United States is standing here in front of us today. When President Trump during the election promised all these things that he was going to do for us, I knew he was going to do this for us. Thank you so much, sir.*

Trump

*A star is born.*



*A star is born. That's fine.*

Trump

*I wouldn't say that Secret Service was thrilled with that, but we know our people, right? We know our people. Great guy. And so many others. I see some others. Being interviewed. I see them over here. They started. They came at 4 in the morning. The media will give them no credit. The media, as I told you, won't show this crowd.*

*All the way outside of this — this is a big a hanger as you get. All the way outside. Way back to the fences. Amazing. I want to thank you, but I want to thank everybody.*

*I've directed the Department of Justice to take a firm, firm stance to protect our cops, sheriffs, and police from crimes of violence against them. We will work with our police not against our police, our police do a great job and they've never been troubled like they're troubled now. It's very unfair what's happening. So we want to cherish our law enforcement. We will always protect those who protect us.*

*We've directed the creation of a task force for reducing violent crime in America, including our inner cities. We're going to make our inner cities safe again. Look at what's going on. Look at what's happening in Chicago. Hundreds of shootings, hundreds of deaths. I'll tell you what's happening in Chicago and many other places. Safety is a civil right. And we will fight to make America totally safe again.*

*I've ordered the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to coordinate on a plan to destroy transnational criminal cartels which are all over the United States and we are going to stop the drugs from pouring into your country, into your community, into your cities and poisoning our youth. We're stopping it. We're stopping it. We've taken historic action to secure the southern border and I've ordered the construction of a great border wall, which will start very shortly.*

*And I've taken decisive action to keep radical Islamic terrorist the hell out of our country. So you probably read where we want to enforce the laws as existing. And so we signed an order a couple of weeks ago, and it was taken over by a court originally by a judge and then a — yes, it's very sad. The reason is for protection and safety. So the statute is so plain and so clear.*

*I said last week, I was speaking to a great group of sheriffs, the sheriffs group in Washington, and I said if you have a college education, you can understand its. If you have a high school education, you can understand it. If you were a bad student in high school, you can understand it.*

*I was told. I'll check, but I found it hard to believe, over 30-page decision by the appellate court. Three judges. And you could tell by the way they were reacting because it was broadcast on television. Everything we do gets a lot of people watching. So you could tell by the way that phone call went, wasn't looking good. When they wrote their decision, as I understand it. Maybe I'm wrong.*

*They didn't write the statute they were making the decision about because every word of the statute is a total kill for the other side. So I thought I would read it. And here's what it says. This is what it says: "Whenever the President finds that the entry of any aliens or any class of aliens into the United States" — okay. So essentially. Whenever somebody comes into the United States. Right.*

*"If it would be detrimental to the interest of the United States" — okay. Now you know the country's we're talking about and these were countries picked by Obama. They weren't even picked. They were picked by Obama.*

*"He may," so the President may, "by proclamation and for such period as he shall deem necessary" — now, because it should have said he or she, right. They were not politically correct when they drew this. In fact, that's the only thing that was actually wrong with it. He or she. I don't think the women care too much about that. Right? I don't think so. By the way, we did very well with women. You know, my wife said when some of these phony polls were put out, the CNN poll was so far off, the phony polls. When some of these, she said, what's wrong with you and women. We did very nicely with women. We did nicely with a lot of groups they didn't think we were going to do so nicely with. I guess we had to. That's why we're all here tonight. Right?*

*So and it goes, "for such as he shall seem necessary suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens as immigrants or nonimmigrants or impose on aliens any restriction he may deem to be appropriate." So basically it says the president has the right to keep people out if he feels it's not in the best interest of our country. Right? Unbelievable. Unbelievable. And I listened to these judges talk and talk and talk. So unfair. So we'll be doing something over the next couple of days. We don't give up. We never give up.*

*We had a court that I disagree with. I disagree with big league — and by the way, whether you read it or whether you watch it on television when other lawyers come on, many of them can't even understand. They're saying how do you come up with that decision. It cannot be more simple. So they're ruling on what I just read you and they don't even quote it in their ruling because you can't because it's too obvious. So we will do something next week. I think you'll be impressed. Let's see what happens.*

*Here's the bottom line. We've got to keep our country safe. You look at what's happening. We've got to keep our country safe. You look at what's happening in Germany, you look at what's happening last night in Sweden. Sweden, who would believe this. Sweden. They took in large numbers. They're having problems like they never thought possible. You look at what's happening in Brussels. You look at what's happening all over the world. Take a look at Nice. Take a look at Paris. We've allowed thousands and thousands of people into our country and there was no way to vet those people. There was no documentation. There was no nothing. So we're going to keep our country safe.*

*And we all have heart, by the way. And what I want to do is build safe zones in Syria and other places so they can stay there and live safely until their cities and their country, that mess that I was left by Obama and everybody else — folks, we were left a mess like you wouldn't believe, but we're going to build safe zones. We're going to have those safe zones.*

*We do owe \$20 trillion. Okay. So we're going to have the gulf states pay for those safe zones. They've got nothing, but money. We're going to do it that way instead of taking massive numbers. Tens the of thousands of people into our country and we don't know anything about those people. We want people to come into our country, but we want people that love us. We want people that can cherish us and the traditions of our country. We want people that are going to be great for our country. We don't want people with bad, bad ideas. We don't want that.*

*I've also directed the defense community headed by General, now — you know, he said it, he said it — and now Secretary 'Mad Dog' Mattis, to develop a plan to totally destroy ISIS. I have ordered the department of defense to begin plans for the great rebuilding of the united states military. We will*

*pursue peace through strength. Our military is badly depleted. You have planes in the military. Where the father flew them and now the son is flying them. Their so old. We make the best equipment anywhere in the world. We're going to start using our best and most modern equipment.*

*And we're going to make sure our veterans have the care they need when they come home. We love our veterans. We're going to do a great job for our veterans. Our veterans have been very, very sadly treated. These are our great great people. We owe them so much. Our veterans are going to be taken care of for once and for all. Our system and our country has led down our veterans. We are not going to let that go on any further. You wait and you see what we're going to be doing for our great veterans. Thank you veterans. Who is here? Who is a veteran? We're going to take care of our veterans.*

*We're going to downsize the bloated, bloated bureaucracy which make the government lien and accountable. We're going to drain the swamp in Washington, D.C. I've already imposed a five year lobbying ban on the executive branch officials and lifetime ban on lobbying for a foreign government.*

*And there's another major promise I have kept to the American people. I've nominated a fantastic justice to replace the late great Justice Scalia. His name is Judge Neil Gorsuch. He comes from my list of 20 very, very highly qualified judges. He's incredible and has an incredible resume. He's respected by all. His education is as good as it can get. His writings are truly amazing. He will be a true, true defender of our constitution. So let's tell the Senate Democrats to support his nomination for the good of the country because what's happening with the Democrats — no wonder they're doing so badly.*

*No wonder they're doing so badly. You take a look, race after race, I just want the tell you, in case you didn't read it, of course you're reading the fake news, but the Democrats were supposed to win the presidency. That didn't happen. They were supposed to take over the Senate. That didn't happen. And they were supposed to take over potentially even the House. It was going to be four weeks out the greatest defeat in the modern history of American politics. And it was, but it was for the Democrats, not for the Republicans. So we have to tell the Democrats, because they're doing the wrong thing for the American people, to stop their tactics of delay and obstruction and destruction. They got to get on with it.*

*My administration is also pushing ahead strongly with very historic tax reform. We are working to lower tax rates in the middle class to reduce tax rates big league on businesses and to make our tax code more fair and very simple for all Americans so it's understandable by everyone. Senate Democrats should work with us to lower taxes and bring back our jobs, but the Democrats want to increase your taxes very, very substantially. We're not going let that happen.*

*Also time for the Senate Democrats to take responsibility for Obamacare and to work with us to replace it with new reforms that reverse this nation-wide healthcare tragedy. It's a tragedy. You look at some states, Arizona, up 116%. Your deductibles have gone so high you can never use it. Obamacare doesn't work. It's become totally unaffordable. Remember they said the healthcare, it's unaffordable. It doesn't work. And I said to the Republicans, I said you want to do something great politically: don't do anything. Sit back for two years, let it explode. The Democrats will come and beg for us to do something, but we can't do that to the American people. We have to fix it. And we will.*

*We need members of both parties to join hands and work with us to pass a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan to build new roads and bridges and airports and tunnels and highways and railways all across our great nation.*

*You're all part of this incredible movement. This movement that we talk about so much. That's been written about on the cover of every magazine all over the world. It's a movement that is just sweeping. It's sweeping across our country. It's sweeping frankly across the globe. Look at Brexit. Look at Brexit. Much smaller example, but it's still something you can look at. People want to take back control of their countries and they want to take back control of their lives and the lives of their family.*

*The nation state remains the best model for human happiness and the American nation remains the greatest symbol of liberty, of freedom and justice on the face of god's earth. And now we have spirit like we've never had before. It's now that we have our sacred duty and we have no choice and we want this choice to defend our country, to protect its values and to serve its great, great citizens. Erasing national borders does not make people safer. It undermines democracy and trade prosperity. We're giving it away.*

*The so-called global elite have done well for themselves, but left working families with shrinking wages. Really they are shrinking. 18 years ago though many of you in this room made more money working one job than you're making right now working two and three jobs. Instead of peace, we've seen wars that never end and conflicts that never seem to go away. We don't fight to win. We fight politically correct wars. We don't win anymore. We don't win at trade. We don't win in any capacity. We don't win anymore. We're going to start winning again. Believe me.*

*And we have the chance now working together to deliver change for the ages. This will be change for the ages. Change like never before. To pursue real peace, real stability, and real prosperity. We want to secure our borders and protect our workers. To rebuild our military and our infrastructure. To fix our schools and restore safety to our neighborhoods. To bring hope and opportunity to our inner cities. To ensure a level playing field for all women in the workforce. To reform our tax code and remove the regulations that undermine growth and innovation. And to replace chaos and distrust with community and cooperation. The tired echoes of yesterday's fights. We're fighting battles that no longer help us. We're fighting battles that other people aren't treating us fairly in the fight.*

*I'm a NATO fan, but many of the countries in NATO, many of the countries that we protect, many of these countries are very rich countries. They're not paying their bills. They're not paying their bills. They have to help us. No longer are we chained down by the discredited approaches of the past. No longer must we listen to those who have nothing to brag about, but failure. New circumstances demand new solutions. Americans have fought and won wars together. Our heroes have shed their blood together and lost their lives. Our citizens have raised their children together, fought for justice together, and shared common hopes and dreams from one generation to the next. Stretching back to the first day of our American independence. This is our legacy. It belongs to all of you. And it belongs to every man, woman, and child in our nation.*

*Now is the time to call upon these deep ties in the name of bold acts. Let us move past the differences party and find a new loyalty rooted deeply in our country. We are all brothers and all sisters. We share one home. One destiny and one glorious American flag. We are united together by history and by providence. We will make America strong again. I promise. We will make America proud again. We will make America safe again. And we will make America great again. Greater than ever before.*

Read Full transcript of Trump's rally speech in Florida  
 May God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America! Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

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## The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 23, 2017

# Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sean Spicer, 2/23/2017, #15

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:58 P.M. EST

MR. SPICER: I was thinking about not doing a briefing today, and then I saw Reince Priebus and Steve Bannon give that talk and I thought they were infringing on my ratings, so we figured we had to do something to keep up our record.

It's been another busy day today. This morning, after receiving his daily intelligence briefing, the President welcomed some of the world's top business and manufacturing leaders to the White House to continue the administration's effort to engage with the private sector to create jobs and expand opportunities for America's workers. The 24 CEOs spent the morning in working sessions with the Vice President, Cabinet members and key aides.

EXH. 9 TO MACLEOD-BALL DEC.



and came together with the President to brief him on their discussions and recommendations.

The group discussed the need to roll back burdensome regulations that are stifling economic growth. The CEOs thanked the President for the actions that he's already taken to address the issues, and the President pledged to do even more, both through the executive branch and by working with Congress to pass legislation that will help further economic growth and job creation.

The business leaders recommended that the administration take a multifaceted approach to tax and trade policies, including tax reform, toward which Secretary Mnuchin said that progress is continuing to be made. The President committed to working to lower taxes and level the playing field with other countries when it comes to trade and taxation.

The group held a lengthy discussion about the need to invest in the American worker to prepare for the manufacturing jobs of the future, especially the key role of vocational schools in training the workforce of the 21st century. The CEOs and administration officials agreed that public-private partnerships will be the cornerstone of a robust plan to rebuild the nation's crumbling infrastructure. The President committed to streamlining a permitting process that is holding back so many key projects.

At the end of the discussion, the group expressed their excitement for having a true partner in economic growth in the White House, and Andrew Liveris, the CEO of Dow Chemical, even said that this is probably the most pro-business administration since the Founding Fathers. The President conveyed his intention to assemble the industry leaders on a regular basis to discuss progress towards these important goals. A full list of the participants is available.

This afternoon, the President spoke with Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau by phone. We'll have a readout on that call soon. Right now, many of you just came from the President, who is involved in another listening session with leaders in the fight against domestic and international human trafficking, including representatives from International Justice Mission and United Way. Their expertise will be invaluable to the President as he engages with members of Congress to raise awareness about, and push through, legislation aimed at preventing all forms of the horrific and unacceptable practice of the buying and selling of human lives.

Human trafficking is a dire problem, both domestically and internationally. And solving this epidemic is a huge priority for the President. Dedicated men and women from across the federal government have focused on this for some time, and the President is committed to continue working with these organizations and departments. A participant list for this listening session is also going to be available.

The President this evening will attend a dinner with the Business Council.



Today in Mexico, Secretaries Tillerson and Kelly had productive meetings at the Cabinet level with officials from the Mexican government. They were forward-looking meetings focused on finding common-ground ways to advance both of our countries' security and economic wellbeing. Both sides had a candid discussion on the breadth of challenges and opportunities as part of the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

The conversation covered a full range of bilateral issues, including energy, legal migration, security, education exchanges, and people-to-people ties. The parties also reiterated our joint commitment to maintaining law and order at our shared border by stopping potential terrorists and dismantling the transnational criminal networks that are moving drugs and people into the United States.

Under this President there is no mistaking that rule of law matters along both sides of our border. Both Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Kelly are meeting with President Peña Nieto this afternoon. That will be a continuation of the productive dialogue that is setting our two countries down a pathway to greater security and long-term prosperity.

Looking ahead to our upcoming schedule, tomorrow the President will welcome President of Peru for a working-level visit. The President of Peru is in town for a separate visit and requested a meeting with the President. There will be a spray at the top of that. Further guidance will be provided later today. The President will also speak at CPAC tomorrow. I know the President is looking forward to addressing this group of conservative-committed individuals.

Our nation's governors are starting to gather in Washington this week for a meeting of the National Governors Association. The President and the First Lady will welcome the governors to the White House on Sunday evening. The Vice President and members of the Cabinet will also be in attendance. While the governors are in town, they will be meeting with members of the Cabinet, White House staff, and other Secretaries including Kelly, Price, and Secretary Chao have also set up a series of meetings.

The President, Vice President, and senior White House staff will also participate in a portion of the business session of NGA's winter meeting that takes place on Monday morning.

Next week, of course, the President will give a joint session address before both Houses of Congress. He's currently working closely with the speechwriting team on presenting his vision to Congress and the American people. I've got a few updates that I want to just -- as we're now a few days out. The theme of the address will be the renewal of the American spirit. The address will particularly focus on public safety, including defense, increased border security, taking care of our veterans, and then economic opportunity, including education, job training, healthcare reform, jobs, and tax and regulatory reform.

With that, I'd like to take a few of your questions.<sup>3</sup>

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Q Two questions. First, the White House said previously that that travel ban was pushed quickly out of necessity for national security, and now we're hearing there's these repeated delays while the new one is being drafted. How do we reconcile those two talking points? That's question one.

And then secondly, the President said today that the deportations taking place under his watch are a military operation. Secretary Kelly said the military won't be involved in deportations. Did the President misspeak?

MR. SPICER: So I'll take the latter first. The President was using that as an adjective. It's happening with precision, and in a manner in which it's being done very, very clearly.

I think we've made it clear in the past, and Secretary Kelly reiterated it, what kind of operation this was. But the President was clearly describing the manner in which this was being done. And so just to be clear on his use of that phrase. And I think the way it's being done, by all accounts, is being done with very much a high degree of precision and a flawless manner in terms of making sure that the orders are carried out, and it's done in a very streamlined and efficient manner.

I'm sorry, the first part was?

Q The first one was about the travel ban.

MR. SPICER: Yeah. And I think, look, we have made it very clear that we believe that the first one was done in compliance with U.S. code and the authority granted to the President. This time, the order is finalized. What we are doing is now in the implementation phase of working with the respective departments and agencies to make sure that when we execute this, it's done in a manner that's flawless.

And so it's not a question of delaying, it's a question of getting it right. We've taken the Court's opinions and concerns into consideration, but the order is finalized. It's now awaiting implementation. What we want to do is make sure that we're working through the departments and agencies so that any concerns or questions are handled on the front end. But we are acting with appropriate haste and diligence to make sure that the order is done in an appropriate manner.

Q I want to ask you about a comment that the Treasury Secretary made today. He was asked if we should assume that the tax plan that the President is about to roll out will take effect in 2018. He said, and I'm quoting, "I think we're looking at that." So my question to you is, would the President accept a tax proposal that deals with the timeline of implementation in 2018 but not 2017?

MR. SPICER: So, Secretary Mnuchin also made it very clear that his goal is to have this wrapped up by August and implemented. The question is, or what you're referring to is what year it actually takes place?

Q Right.

MR. SPICER: Right, so whether it's retroactive to tax year 2017 or fiscal year '17. And I think as the details get --

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. SPICER: Yeah, we'll have more details on that as it moves forward. I think there's two issues -- fiscal year '17 and calendar year '17. And, for taxpayers, it's obviously calendar year 2017 that they're probably most concerned with, and I think the President, as we work with Congress, will have those details to be able to flush out.

I want to go to our first Skype seat of the day. Neil Vigdor with Hearst Connecticut Media Group.

Q Good afternoon, Sean. Thanks for taking my question. I appreciate it. Connecticut's governor directed police chiefs across the state Wednesday to avoid taking any special action against undocumented immigrants, including honoring immigration detainer requests from ICE. What will the repercussions be for this state in terms of federal funding it receives from the Trump administration?

And secondly, does the President's executive order on sanctuary cities apply to those that are undeclared sanctuary cities?

MR. SPICER: Well, Neil, I think there's a couple things. The idea that Governor Malloy would not want the law followed as enacted by Congress or by the Connecticut legislature in any fashion seems to be concerning, right? Whether you're a governor or mayor or the President, laws are passed in this country and we expect people and our lawmakers and our law enforcement agencies to follow and adhere to the laws as passed by the appropriate level of government.

So it's obviously concerning, I think, and it's troubling that that's the message that he would send to his people and to other governors. Because we are a nation of laws, and I think that people need to understand that whether it's the laws that he passes as the Governor of Connecticut or the laws that are passed through Congress and signed by the President, there's a reason that our democracy works. It's because the people speak, our representatives at every level pass a law, and the executive in that particular branch of government signs or vetoes it, and then we live by those rules. And the idea that you can

decide which laws to agree or not to agree with, or follow or not follow, undermines our entire rule of law.

And so I would suggest that that is not a great sign to be sending to the people of Connecticut and the people of this country, that a particular governor chooses not to follow the duly-passed laws of this nation.

With respect to sanctuary cities, I think this is an area that the American people by huge amounts support. They recognize their tax dollars shouldn't be spent supporting programs and activities to which people are not entitled to. And so I think the President has been very clear on this -- that if you are a sanctuary city, declared or undeclared, if you are providing benefits or services, we are going to do everything we can to respect taxpayers and ensure that your states follow the law.

April.

Q Sean, on the bathroom issue, there was a different comment from the President about, you know, if people like Caitlyn Jenner wanted to use this bathroom in Trump Tower, she could now. What's happened?

MR. SPICER: No, I think that's -- so just to be clear, the President was asked -- at one point Caitlyn Jenner was in Trump Tower, and he said, that's great. That's consistent with everything he's said. It's a states' rights issue. And that's entirely what he believes -- that if a state wants to pass a law or rule, or an organization wants to do something in compliance with the state rule, that's their right. But it shouldn't be the federal government getting in the way of this.

I mean, if you look at this, the law that was passed in 1972 did not contemplate or consider this issue. Number two, the procedure for this guidance letter that was done through the Obama administration was not properly followed. There was no comment period. There was no input from parents, teachers, students or administrators. None.

So if we think about how this was implemented last administration, there was zero input, there was zero comment period offered. Teachers and students never had any say in how this was implemented. Number three, there's a reason that the Texas court had this matter enjoined. It's because it didn't follow the law and it had procedural problems.

Four, as I mentioned, it's a states' rights issue. And then five is, I think that we do have to recognize that children do enjoy rights, from anti-bullying statutes that are in almost every state, and that there's a difference between being compassionate for individuals and children who are struggling with something and wanting to make sure they're protected, and how it's being done. And I think that the President has a big heart, as we've talked

about in a lot of other issues, and there's a big difference. Personally, he addressed this issue when it came up with respect to one of his properties.

But he also believes that that's not a federal government issue. It's an issue left to the states, and it's an issue that -- I mean, there's a reason in August of last year that the court enjoined this, because it hadn't followed the law and it hadn't -- the procedure, the comment period and the solicitation of opinions and ideas wasn't followed. It was jammed down the process.

And so we're actually following the law on this one, and I think that's the way it's supposed to be done.

John.

Q If I could just follow on what April said. The Human Rights Campaign --

Q I wasn't finished, I'm sorry.

Q Well, I'm following on your question. Let me follow --

Q I understand that, but --

MR. SPICER: Why don't we let April follow on and then we'll get to John, Kristen and Brian.

Q Yeah. So I have one on -- I have something on another issue really fast, then John can do that. On the HBCU executive order, we understand the executive order that's coming out sometime later this month, it's supposed to open -- you're working out issues of opening an office specifically to take the HBCU initiative out of the Department of Education and bring it directly under the purview of the White House. Who will be heading that? Have you figured that out? Have you also figured out how you will build that office out? Because from what I understand, that is one of the big pieces of this.

MR. SPICER: Well, respectfully, that's why it hasn't been issued yet. We're working it through the process. Obviously, that is something that we're committed to getting done by the end of Black History Month. So our days are numbered, but there's a commitment by the President and the staff to really focus on this issue and give it the proper respect that it deserves. So if you'll bear with us a couple more days, I promise you we'll have more to say on that.

Q So it will be a department with the full --

MR. SPICER: No, no, I just want to be clear, I'm not going to get into the details. Sort of my blanket statement on non-issued executive orders. But I do know that there is a

commitment by the President and the staff that he has been very clear with us that he wants that done by the end of this month for obvious reasons.

Now John.

Q Let me get back to where we were. The Human Rights Campaign, in responding to rescinding the guidance last night, said that this is not a states' rights issue, it's a civil rights issue, and therefore is in the purview of the federal government. Do you disagree that this a civil rights issue?

MR. SPICER: It's not a -- it's a question of where it's appropriately addressed. And I think there's a reason -- like, we've got to remember, this guidance was enjoined last August by a court. It hasn't been enforced. There was no comment period by anyone -- by the Human Rights Campaign, by teachers, parents, students. Nobody had any input of this.

And it seems to me a little interesting that if this was any other issue, people would be crying foul that the process wasn't followed. The reality is, is that when you look at Title IX, it was enacted in 1972. The idea that this was even contemplated at that is preposterous on its face. But that doesn't mean that the President -- the President obviously understands the issue and the challenges that especially young children face. He just believes that this is a state issue that needs to be addressed by states, as he does with a lot of other issues that we've talked about.

And so this is -- we are a states' rights party. The President on a lot of issues believes in these various issues being states' rights. I don't see why this would be any different. And again, if you go through it, it's not just -- it's how the guidance was issued, it's the legal basis on which it was ordered. It fell short on a lot of stuff.

It wasn't us that did this; it was the court that stepped in and said that they hadn't followed the procedure of the law back in August of last year and enjoin the case.

Q I understand all that, I'm just wondering if -- does the White House disagree with the position that this is a civil right?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think it's not a question of whether it's a civil right, it's where is it appropriately addressed. And as I noted, it's appropriately addressed at the state level.

Kelly.

Q Can I follow on that? Sean, does the President believe, personally believe that any student who is transgender should be able to use the bathroom of their choice? His personal belief?

MR. SPICER: The President believes it's a states' rights issue. And he's not going to get into determining -- I understand what you're asking, Kelly. And I think that, as April pointed out, when the issue came to one of his own properties he was very clear. But again, what he doesn't want to do is force his issues or beliefs down -- he believes it's a states' rights issue -

Q But the public may want to know where the President is on this issue.

MR. SPICER: I understand that, and I think that he is very sympathetic to children who deal with that and that this is up to states and schools within a particular district to address how they want to accommodate that, and not sort of be prescriptive from Washington. That's what the President believes.

Zeke.

Q Thanks, Sean. You mentioned that this order was enjoined by a court and there was criticism about the process. That exact same criticism has been levied on the administration's first executive order, on the travel ban. I mean, can you help us square the circle here? Why are you relying on that same "enjoined by a federal court" criticism of the process for one but not the other?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think there's a big difference. There's no way that you can read Title IX from 1972 -- anybody -- and say that that was even contemplated back then. It just -- there's nobody that is possibly suggesting that the law that was passed in 1972 did that.

Number two, there was zero comment period put forward on this guidance, which is in violation of how it was executed, okay? And so there's a big difference -- hold on, hold on, let me answer the question, Zeke. There is also a strong reading when you read 1182 U.S. Code that it is very clear that the President does have the authority.

So they are very much apples and oranges issue. One, it's very clear that the President is told by Congress in U.S. code that he has the authority to do what's necessary to protect the American people. And there's no way that anybody above a fifth grade reading level could interpret that different. There is a difference between looking at a statute from 1972 and saying that something was complicated back then.

Not only that -- again, it's a multifaceted thing. When you look at how the guidance was issued, there was a zero comment period. Nobody was able to weigh in on that situation back then. And so when you're talking about forcing schools to make a huge accommodation from the federal level, and schools, parents, teachers, kids were not able to have any input in that decision from Washington, I think it's a very, very clear difference.

John Gizzi.



Q Thank you, Sean. Just going back two weeks, in a story that got relatively little attention at the time -- Chuck Cooper, a very distinguished lawyer, asked that his name be withdrawn when he was on the periphery of being named U.S. Solicitor General. So my question is a two-parter. First, can you confirm or deny the administration is now vetting Mr. Miguel Estrada, who was a former nominee for the Court of Appeals, as Solicitor General before the visa delay case gets to the Supreme Court?

And second, Mr. Cooper said that he did not want to go through the same experience that Jeff Sessions, his good friend, did when he had the confirmation hearings and the vote in the Senate. Does that make the President a little bit discouraged about getting the nominees he wants for some very important positions?

MR. SPICER: Well, thanks, John. And I'd say - on the first part, as you know -- and I'll give you the same answer we give executive orders -- we don't comment on personnel decisions until they're made, until they're finalized. So I've got nothing for that.

On the second part, what I would say is that the President is very confident we have a deep bench of folks who -- during the transition, we talked about this -- a number of people who have expressed a huge interest in joining the President in fulfilling this agenda. And that list is robust and long.

However, that being said, I think for folks who have to go through the Senate confirmation and to watch what has happened to some of these fine individuals -- the delay tactics, the tearing apart of their personal lives -- it is discouraging for some of these people, I think, in terms of Mr. Cooper and others who are looking at the process saying, I would like to be part of this administration, help fulfill this vision and this agenda, but this is what I'm going to have go through.

So while this is somewhat of an isolated case, I definitely understand what he's talking about here. And I think those are few and far between, but I think that when you realize what is happening largely at the expense of Senate Democrats, in terms of dragging these people through a very, very delayed and arduous process for purely political points, I think that there are some people who could look at the process and potentially say I don't want to serve.

Luckily, we've not come to that beyond a handful of folks. Largely, people have huge desire and are willing to make great sacrifice -- both financially and personally -- to serve in the administration because I think they understand what potential change this President is bringing to this country and to the city. But I understand his point.

Q This morning, the President talked about, as he often does when he talks about immigrants, he talks about really bad dudes.



MR. SPICER: Yeah.

Q You talked about precision. The Homeland Security Secretary this morning insisted there won't be mass deportation.

MR. SPICER: Right.

Q Is it the President's intent or desire, as some advocates worry, that people who are here illegally with something as simple as a traffic violation, that those people will be subject to deportation? Yes or no?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think everybody who is in this country for obvious reasons -- if you overstay a visa, if you commit a crime, you can't -- by the very nature of you not being legal, you can be subject to deportation. That's by definition. Being in this country is a privilege, not a right, if you are a visitor. And I think we have a right to make sure that the people who are in this country are here for good and peaceful processes.

And as I've said over and over again, there is a big difference. The President recognizes that there are millions of people in the country who are not here legally, and that we have to have a very systematic and pragmatic and methodical process of going through those individuals to make sure that the people who pose a threat to public safety or have a criminal record are the first that are gone.

What we've done -- just to be clear -- is to untie the hands of ICE and Border Patrol agents and say, your job is to enforce the law -- first and foremost to figure out who poses a threat to us. But in the previous administration their hands had been tied. There was exception after exception after exception. And the fact of the matter is, is that we have to -- we are a nation of laws, and we have to have a system of legal immigration that is respected.

So I'm not going to be prescriptive in terms of what ICE's job is. But needless to say, their job and their mission is to protect the country and to enforce our borders and our immigration laws. And the President has basically instructed them to carry out their mission. And so the priorities, as we've discussed over and over and over again, is to do that is in accordance with the law but also prioritizes those people that pose a threat.

I'm going to go to Roby Brock from the Talk Business & Politics in -- where is he from? Arkansas.

Q Thanks, Sean. Roby Brock with Talk Business & Politics here in Arkansas, the home of the rowdiest town halls in the nation.

I have a question on medical marijuana. Our state voters passed a medical marijuana amendment in November. Now we're in conflict with federal law, as many other states are.

The Obama administration kind of chose not to strictly enforce those federal marijuana

laws. My question to you is: With Jeff Sessions over at the Department of Justice as AG, what's going to be the Trump administration's position on marijuana legalization where it's in a state-federal conflict like this?

MR. SPICER: Thanks, Roby. There's two distinct issues here: medical marijuana and recreational marijuana.

I think medical marijuana, I've said before that the President understands the pain and suffering that many people go through who are facing especially terminal diseases and the comfort that some of these drugs, including medical marijuana, can bring to them. And that's one that Congress, through a rider in 2011 -- looking for a little help -- I think put in an appropriations bill saying the Department of Justice wouldn't be funded to go after those folks.

There is a big difference between that and recreational marijuana. And I think that when you see something like the opioid addiction crisis blossoming in so many states around this country, the last thing that we should be doing is encouraging people. There is still a federal law that we need to abide by in terms of the medical -- when it comes to recreational marijuana and other drugs of that nature.

So I think there's a big difference between medical marijuana, which states have a -- the states where it's allowed, in accordance with the appropriations rider, have set forth a process to administer and regulate that usage, versus recreational marijuana. That's a very, very different subject.

Shannon.

Q What does that mean in terms of policy? A follow-up, Sean. What does that mean in terms of policy?

MR. SPICER: Shannon. Glenn, this isn't a TV program. We're going to --

Q What is the Justice Department going to do?

MR. SPICER: Okay, you don't get to just yell out questions. We're going to raise our hands like big boys and girls.

Q Why don't you answer the question, though?

MR. SPICER: Because it's not your job to just yell out questions.

Shannon, please go.

Q Okay. Well, first, on the manufacturing summit, was the AFL-CIO invited? And then, yeah, I did want to follow up on this medical marijuana question. So in the federal

government then going to take some sort of action around this recreational marijuana in some of these states?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think that's a question for the Department of Justice. I do believe that you'll see greater enforcement of it. Because again, there's a big difference between the medical use which Congress has, through an appropriations rider in 2014, made very clear what their intent was in terms of how the Department of Justice would handle that issue. That's very different than the recreational use, which is something the Department of Justice I think will be further looking into.

I'm sorry, Shannon, what was the first part?

Q Was the AFL-CIO invited to the manufacturing meeting today with the CFOs? Because they are part of this manufacturing --

MR. SPICER: Right. I think this was just focused on people who actually -- they were not, I don't believe, part of this one. As you know, that we've had union representation at other meetings. I think this was specifically for people who are hiring people and the impediments that they're having to create additional jobs, hire more people. And obviously, while the President values their opinion -- and that's why they've been involved in some of the past -- this was specifically a manufacturing -- people who hire people, who manufacture, who grow the economy, who grow jobs. And that is a vastly different situation.

Andrei.

Q I specifically sat here next to John to have --

MR. SPICER: One can see --

Q You know me. (Laughter.) Thank you. A question on Russia. Secretary Tillerson and General Dunford have had meetings with their Russian counterparts. Is the President pleased with the results of the meetings?

MR. SPICER: Yes.

Q And what comes next?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, both of them had an opportunity to meet with their counterparts in different locations, ironically on the same day. I believe that was yesterday. And they both had very, very productive discussions. The President was very pleased with the outcome of that, and so I would refer you back to both General Dunford and Secretary Tillerson on those.

Q You started discussing the where and when for the summit for the leaders meeting?

MR. SPICER: I don't have any updates on that, but I'll look into that.

Cecilia.

Q Sean, I just want to follow up. I want to clarify, make sure I understand what you said. You said, you will see greater enforcement of it?

MR. SPICER: I would refer you to the Department of Justice --

Q But you said, you said there will be greater enforcement.

MR. SPICER: No, no. I know. I know what I -- I think -- then that's what I said. But I think the Department of Justice is the lead on that. It is something that you should follow up with them, but I believe that they are going to continue to enforce the laws on the books with respect to recreational marijuana versus --

Q Okay. And my real question if you don't mind.

MR. SPICER: That first one was pretty real.

Q Ivanka Trump was in the White House today for a meeting on human trafficking. She had this meeting on CEOs. We saw her in a smaller session here at the White House today. What exactly is her role here?

MR. SPICER: I think her role is to be helpful and provide input on a variety of areas that she has deep, passionate concerns about, especially in the area of women in the workforce and empowering women. She is someone who has a lot of expertise and wants to offer that, especially in the area of trying to help women. She understands that firsthand. And I think because of the success that she's had, her goal is to try to figure out -- and the understanding that she has a businesswoman -- to use her expertise and understanding to empower and help women have the same kind of opportunity and success that she's had. So --

Q But still not a formal role?

MR. SPICER: No, nothing more than you've seen now. I think, last night, the meeting that she had in Baltimore was one that was done on her own. There's areas that she's cared very passionately about before her time in the White House, or before her father coming to the White House, rather. And now that her father is in the White House, she continues to seek a platform that helps empower and lift up women, and give them opportunities and think of ways that they can be --

Q Sean, thanks. On the human trafficking meeting today, the President said, well, when you talk about solving this kind of problem, that's a nice word, but it's really -- he suggested that, more likely, he could just help out on that problem. What's his definition of success in this? What's his goal? Is he looking at stronger criminal penalties?

MR. SPICER: Well, Dave, I think that's, as I read out earlier, that the President understands that this is a serious problem both for adults, but particularly for children who are being sold both domestically and internationally, and it's why we brought these groups in. It's to make sure that we figure out how do we make that number as close to zero as possible and that we institute policies both domestically, but then abroad, and working with our partners to figure out how do we combat the trafficking of people.

So it's things that we can be forceful in terms of the rhetoric that the President uses, but also the enforcement tools that he uses both domestically and internationally.

Trey.

Q Thanks, Sean. Has the President been briefed at all on the situation at Standing Rock? And is he concerned that a stand-off with protesters could slow down his executive orders on pipelines?

MR. SPICER: Our team has been involved with both the tribe and the governor there, and so we are not only -- we are constantly in touch with them. And I think we feel very confident that we will move forward to get the pipeline moving. And so we'll have a further update on that, but I think we're in constant contact with the officials there.

Kristen.

Q Sean, thank you. Two topics I'd like to ask, but I wanted to start off by following on the transgender directive. Eight-two percent of transgender children report feeling unsafe at school. So isn't the President leaving some of these children open to vulnerable -- to being bullied at school?

MR. SPICER: No. I mean, there are bullying laws and policies in place in almost every one of these schools.

Q Transgender children say their experience is --

MR. SPICER: But I don't think -- hold on --

Q -- not being able to use the bathroom that they feel comfortable using because of vulnerability to bullying.

MR. SPICER: But again, you're missing the point here, Kristen. The President said literally it should be a state decision. He respects the decision of the state. So therefore --

Q So respecting kids is a states' rights issue?

MR. SPICER: No, no, that's not -- you're trying to make an issue out of something that doesn't exist. It was the court who stopped this in August of last year. So where were the questions last year in August about this? It wasn't implemented correctly, legally, and the procedure wasn't followed because the court found, at the time, that it didn't have the authority to do that. So you're asking us why we're following the law that wasn't followed. And the reality is --

Q Well, I'm asking you why you're reversing the Obama directive --

MR. SPICER: Hold on. No, no, we're not reversing it. Hold on. We're not reversing it. That is a misinterpretation of the scenario. The court stopped it. It enjoined it in August of last year because it wasn't properly drafted, and it didn't follow the procedures, and there was no legal basis for it in a law that was instituted in 1972.

So hold on -- for you to use those terms, frankly, doesn't reflect what the situation actually is and how it happened. That's just -- so to talk about us reversing something that was stopped by the courts.

Q I understand that --

MR. SPICER: No, no, but --

Q -- but you're sending a message --

MR. SPICER: No, we're not. We're basically saying that it's a states' rights issue. If a state chooses to do it, as I mentioned to April, when this circumstance came up at one of the President's own properties, he was very clear about his position on this. So for you to turn around and say what message is the President saying, where was the message when he sent it last year? I think the message shows that he's a guy with a heart that understands the trouble that many people go through.

But he also believes that the proper legal recourse for this is with the states. He believes in the states' ability to determine what's right for their state versus another state.

Q I understand what you're saying. But the LGBTQ community yesterday said they felt --

MR. SPICER: I understand what --

Q -- that what they perceiving is that those kids are not being respected.

MR. SPICER: But there's a difference what people may or may not feel and the legal process and the law. And the law right now doesn't allow for it under Title IX that was passed in 1972. And the procedure wasn't followed. The court saw this in August of last year for a reason. And all we're doing is saying that the proper place for this is in the states.

And so for you to suggest what message is this sending, it's very simple: that it's a states' rights issue, and the states should enact laws that reflect the values, principles, and will of the people in their particular state. That's it, plain and simple.

Q Moving on to Obamacare very quickly, former House Speaker John Boehner predicted that a full repeal and replace of Obamacare -- his words -- "is not going to happen." He went on to say, "Most of the framework of the Affordable Care Act, it's going to be there." Do you think that he has a point? Are you going to --

MR. SPICER: Well, no, I think -- look, I think what we're going to end up with is something that I've talked about over and over again. We're going to end up with a more accessible plan that will allow people to see more doctors, have more providers, and drive costs down. Those are the two guiding principles that we're going to have in what the President is going to work with Congress to put forward on. That's it, plain and simple.

Yes.

Q Sean, on roads and highways in the United States, in many places around the country potholes and other issues are affecting the way in which Americans travel. And the President has said he would fix these issues during the campaign. What is the status on that? And has the President spoken to heads of DOT or other people?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think the President is starting to address that through the budget process we talked about yesterday. It will be out in mid-March. And so the infrastructure projects and priorities that the President has talked about -- whether it's air control, and our airports, or the roads and bridges -- will be something that he's going to work with DOT, but also talk about in his budget. And you'll see more in his joint address to Congress.

With that, Laurel Staples of KECI-NBC in Montana.

Q Montana has hundreds of miles of border with Canada. And according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, almost 1 million people come across that border into Montana each year. What are the administration's plans to increase security on the Canadian border? And does the administration have any plans to build a wall there? (Laughter.)

MR. SPICER: Well, we're obviously concerned -- thank you -- at all sorts of immigration in this country, whether it's from our northern border or our southern border. I think the



President understands that our southern border is where we have more of a concern in terms of the number of people and the type of activity that's coming over there in terms of the cartels and drug activity. But that doesn't mean that we're not paying attention to our northern border, as well. And we will continue to both monitor and take steps necessary at our northern border to ensure the safety of all Americans.

Yes, sir.

Q One question on the South China Sea and a follow-up on the Dakota Access Pipeline.

This week was the first week, I believe, that the Trump administration launched freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea. Can you give us a sense of how frequently you are going to be doing those?

And then on the Dakota Access Pipeline, a few weeks ago President Trump said he would try to negotiate a solution between the Standing Rock Sioux and Energy Transfer Partners. Why hasn't the President intervened and tried to initiate those negotiations yet?

MR. SPICER: So on the latter, our team has been in contact with all the parties involved. They have been working and communicating back and forth. So if we have an update on that -- but there has been work at the staff level between the parties.

And then on the second -- on the first part, I've got no further update in terms of the frequency by which we will have stuff.

Alexis.

Q Sean, in the Reuters interview with the President, he described again his interest in seeing the nuclear arsenal expand in the United States. Can you describe what it is that the President has in mind -- the timeframe and how he would like to pursue that?

MR. SPICER: Yes, let's just be clear. He didn't -- what he was very clear on is that the United States will not yield its supremacy in this area to anybody. That's what he made very clear in there. And that if other countries have nuclear capabilities, it will always be the United States that has the supremacy and commitment to this.

Obviously, that's not what we're seeking to do. The question that was asked was about other people growing their stockpiles. And I think what he has been clear on is that our goal is to make sure that we maintain America's dominance around the world, and that if other countries cloud it, we don't sit back and allow them to grow theirs.

Francesca.



Q Sean, a domestic policy question and then a foreign policy question, if you will. You said yesterday that the President had named a task force on the voter fraud probe. When did he name that task force specifically?

MR. SPICER: I think two weeks ago he announced that Vice President Pence would lead that task force, and that the Vice President and his team were starting to look at members to do that.

Q So you were referring to the interview in which he said there would be a task force.

MR. SPICER: That's right.

Q Not that something has happened since then.

MR. SPICER: That's correct.

Q Okay. And then on foreign policy, the President had said in his Saturday campaign speech that the Gulf States would be paying for that safe zone in Syria. Which Gulf States was he referring to? Have any committed to paying for that?

MR. SPICER: So if you look at the readouts that he's had with several of the foreign leaders that is brought up and mentioned in almost every one of them. And I think he's talked about the financing of the safe zones and the commitment that they need to make to those. And I think by and large, we've had widespread commitment. When we have an update on - and I think that's an issue that's going to be ongoing at the Secretary of State level, as well, where you saw Secretary Tillerson follow up on that with numerous folks.

We will have further updates on the funding of safe zones as we go forward. But there has been a general commitment by most of these heads of government to share in the President's commitment to help fund these things.

Can I go to Steve Gruber of WJIM in Michigan?

Q Thank you, Sean. I greatly appreciate it. I'd like to talk to you more about tax policy, if I may. President Trump, of course, on the campaign trail talked a lot about tax policy and tax reform. That hasn't happened yet, as we know. But I want to talk about something different. That's the border adjustability tax. With the manufacturers that were at the White House again today, states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, others have a great concern about this tax, and there seems to be a disconnect between some of the CEOs, some of the Republicans on Capitol Hill and the President as to whether or not this is appropriate.

And I guess the question is: Could this tax have a chilling effect on manufacturing at a time when places like Ohio, and Michigan, and the Upper Midwest are trying to jumpstart the

economy with manufacturing jobs? I wish for you to clarify, if you could, the President's position.

MR. SPICER: Yes, Steve, thank you. I think the President has been very clear from the beginning that there is no tax if companies manufacture in the United States. We are one of only a handful of countries that doesn't tax the imports that come into our country. Almost every other country operates their tax code under that system.

And so what happens is we have a system by which companies abroad can send their products -- tax our products going into their country and institute an import tax, and then their products come into the United States with no import tax -- which, frankly, gives a disincentive to companies to stay in the United States, to manufacture in the United States, to hire in the United States. And it tilts the field against the American worker.

And so the President is looking at tax policy that encourages manufacturing and job creation in the United States. And if you think about it --

Q So where is he on this border adjustability tax?

MR. SPICER: Hold on.

Q Where is he on this tax specifically?

MR. SPICER: I understand that. And I think that what he is doing is he met yesterday with his team on the budget. He's talked to Secretary Mnuchin and others who are working on a comprehensive tax reform plan. And remember, Steve, this isn't something that's been done since 1986. And so as we look at it, part of that is to make sure that we lower our corporate tax rate, that we make it more attractive to manufacture and grow jobs in the United States, to make our companies more competitive with companies overseas that, frankly, have better tax treatment than our own companies who stay in the United States. So creating more of a playing field that encourages manufacturing and growing and creating in the United States.

But make no mistake, if a company is in the United States already and expanding in the United States, it will be only to their benefit. Actually, if you think about it right now, the way the current tax code works, it almost incentivizes companies from leaving the United States, manufacturing, and expanding overseas, and then sending their goods and services back to the United States, which undermines our own economy, it undermines our workers.

Q But the question is about components coming back in the United States being manufactured.

MR. SPICER: I understand, Steve. Okay, I know that you're on the Skype, but we only do like one or two follow-ups.

But the answer is, is that he's working towards comprehensive tax reform, and we'll have a plan out within the next few weeks that will address that.

Yes.

Q On the transgender guidance, the administration not only rescinded it, but sent a letter to the Supreme Court informing them about the change as they consider a related case.

Does the termination of the guidance present an administration position on the way the Supreme Court should rule?

MR. SPICER: I'm sorry, on? Well, obviously, we're -- I'm sorry -- removing the guidance clearly does. The guidance that was put forward by the Obama administration, which clearly hadn't been done in a proper way in terms of how they solicited, or, rather, didn't solicit comments -- the guidance it puts forward obviously sends a signal to the Court on where the administration stands on this issue.

Q Can I ask you about Syria? Two quick questions. First, the talks have started again, peace talks in Geneva. The man convening them, Staffan de Mistura, says he's not detected a clear strategy on the political track from the administration. So what is the President's thinking on that? And in particular, what's his thinking on the future of President Assad, whether he can stay on in a transition or --

MR. SPICER: I will refer you to the State Department on the status of the talks.

Q But the overall strategy comes from here.

MR. SPICER: Right, I understand that. And that's one of the things that the President, whether it's safe zones or how we deal with Syria and the problems that --

Q What's the President thinking on Assad's future? Just the key points.

MR. SPICER: I understand that, thank you.

Q One other question then on Syria, if you don't mind. The fall of al-Bab in northern Syria, an important development on the battlefield, creates some space in that town that's fallen to the Turks and opposition. Is that the sort of space that the President would like to see a safe zone?

MR. SPICER: I don't -- we're not trying to be prescriptive right now in terms of the geographic location of a safe zone. It's something that -- right now, the President's goal is to get commitments from other world leaders, both in terms of the funding and the commitment to share in how we do that.

So I don't want to get -- we're not looking to be prescriptive today in how it's done. I think, overall, we need a greater commitment in the region to make sure that people are committed to a strategy and to safe zones to allow that to stop some of the human suffering that's going on and create -- while the rest of the conflict ensues. And I think that we've got to dual-track this -- deal with the conflict as a whole and how we address it, how we deal with ISIS in combatting it, but then we also have to -- there's a humanitarian piece to this as well with respect to the safe zones.

And I think that we were looking at both pieces of this as well.

Q Thanks, Sean. Since the election, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has expressed some disquiet about pulling out of the Paris agreement on climate change. And the President has also heard from some world leaders about that. Can you tell us, is the President still committed to pulling out of the Paris agreement on climate change?

MR. SPICER: I think I will leave that to Secretary Tillerson. That's a conversation that he's having with him as far as where we are on that.

Q Sean, thank you very much. I just have a follow-up to the Syria question first. Do you have any timeline when it comes to when he wants to see those safe zones actually being built? And I wanted to go back to the executive order on immigration. You've talked about these dual-tracks, where you're going to be doing the new executive order but also continuing to fight that in court. Can you give us a status update on where that legal fight is and what we should see happening?

MR. SPICER: So with respect to the executive order, there are several courts that this is being fought in -- 10 or so -- and we continue to deal with that in all of those venues. And then again, I guess, the only way to say this is, then obviously on the dual-track side we have the additional executive order that we've talked about earlier that will come out and further address the problems.

We continue to believe that the issues that we face specifically in the 9th district -- 9th Circuit, rather, that we will prevail on, on the merits of that. But on the other challenges that have come and the other venues and the others -- that we feel equally confident, as we did in Massachusetts and other venues. So it's not a single-track system.

And I'm sorry, I know you --

Q Have you made a decision yet about the Supreme Court taking it there? And then the other question was on the safe zones and the timeline.

MR. SPICER: So with respect to the Supreme Court, I mean, we've got to continue to work this through the process. So right now it's at the 9th Circuit. That's the primary problem

that we are addressing. And then we don't have any timeline that I can announce today on Syrian safe zones.

Q I just want to follow up to this morning's meeting. And the President said that he gave authorization to a couple of countries to buy military equipment from the United States. Which countries was he referring to? And has he gone to Congress to ask for permission to do this?

MR. SPICER: We'll follow up and get a list for you on that.  
Jeff.

Q Sean, if I could ask again about the delay of the executive order until the next week. Is the administration still trying to craft its legal argument to this to withstand scrutiny, or why again the delay? I'm not sure I understand --

MR. SPICER: Yeah, and I think I asked and answered this earlier.

Q Sorry, I don't understand the delay.

MR. SPICER: Okay, then I'll explain it to you. I think the President this time -- we were very careful to understand what the court's concerns were and address them in the follow-up executive order. With respect to when we're going to announce it, part of this is to make sure that we work with the appropriate departments and agencies on the implementation of it to make sure that it is executed and it continues to be executed in a flawless manner, and that it meets the intent that it would serve.

We understand the challenges that may come, and so we want to do this in a manner that makes sure that the Hill, other members of Congress, the appropriate agencies and departments are fully ready to implement this when it's issued. And so that's it. There's really nothing more to it.

Q There also is some concern -- if I can follow up -- there also is concern inside the Justice Department and in Homeland Security by some officials this afternoon that we're reporting that the White House is looking for them to help build this legal argument, to find a conclusion here.

MR. SPICER: No, that's not -- basically, you're saying that we did our due diligence. We looked to the departments to ask them to review certain things. So last week it was we rushed stuff; this week, you're saying that we are taking our time and --

Q Has it been more difficult than you thought it would be?

MR. SPICER: No, that's not true. I don't think so. And I think you using continued unnamed sources -- I think it actually is a -- it will be implemented flawlessly because we've done the

right thing and gone to these individuals, sought feedback and guidance, and done this in an unbelievably comprehensive way to ensure that departments and agencies that are going to be executing and implementing this fully are aware of what's happening. But this has been done in a very, very comprehensive way.

Yeah, sorry.

Q Thank you, Sean. Melanie Arter, CNSNews.com. Former Labor Secretary nominee Andrew Puzder admitted that for a few years he unwittingly employed an illegal immigrant as a housekeeper. Is this administration committed to holding employers accountable when they employ illegal aliens? And how does the administration plan to do so?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I think that was -- that issue was something that Mr. Puzder was very forthcoming on. And when he recognized the situation that had occurred, he paid all the appropriate taxes and tried to help the individual go through the proper process. And so, yeah, we're going to continue to make sure that we hold individuals in compliance with the law. And he did the right thing then, but whether it's companies or individuals, I think, we are committed to making sure that people do what's right.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Veronica Clearly, with Fox 5. I have two questions. Janet Evancho -- she sang the National Anthem -- she requested a meeting with the President. Her sister is transgender. Is he going to take that meeting, or meet with anyone from the transgender community during this conversation?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I think the President would be welcome to meet with her.

Q The second question -- second question. Steve Bannon today called the media the opposition party. Last week, there was lots of conversation about the fake news and us being the enemy of the people. Some have said that this is really just a branding of the media, where he did that in the primaries, branding "Little Marco" and "Lyn' Ted". Is this --

MR. SPICER: Well, no, that was the President. Just to --

Q Right, of course. But is this a branding strategy to --

MR. SPICER: No, I think that's what Steve believes.

Q But this is real.

MR. SPICER: Absolutely, of course, it's real. I don't think he'd go out -- Steve has been very clear about his position on the media and how he believes it distorts things. So I don't think there's --

Q From the whole administration?

MR. SPICER: No, no. Hold on. I just said that that is what Steve's view is. He's made it several times, and I think he's very clear on that.

Sarah.

Q Thanks, Sean. Back to the border adjustment tax. President Trump has told Reuters that he does support some form of a border tax. How does the President respond to critics that are saying the border adjustment tax will be passed on to lower-income and middle-class families in the form of higher prices for goods and higher prices for gas?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think if you look at holistically -- I mean, the first thing to understand is that there is no tax if you're manufacturing in the United States, so there can be no higher cost. But if you think about it right now, we have to look at this in a holistic way, which is, when a company chooses to leave our country and shed American jobs so they can move overseas, and then sell back to us at a lower price, there's a big cost that comes to our economy and to our workers. And so we've got to look at this comprehensively.

But if a company chooses to stay and grow in the United States, hire more people, it actually will be a net savings, if you think about it, because it will be the companies who are overseas, who have chosen to move out of the country who will face a higher cost under these kind of plans.

And that's a big difference. It will actually benefit consumers, benefit workers, and benefit out economy. And that's -- when you really think about the economic impact about that, that benefits our economy, it helps our American workers, it grows more jobs, it grows the manufacturing base. And again, we are probably one of only a handful of developed countries that don't have a tax system that looks at this. And so right now, it's America and American workers and American manufacturing that are the disadvantage of the current regulatory and tax system, not the other way around.

Thank you, guys. Have a great day. We'll touch base tomorrow in some way. I will see you then. Tune in to CPAC to see the President.

END

3:52 P.M. EST

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## The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 21, 2017

# Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sean Spicer, 2/21/2017, #13

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:42 P.M. EST

MR. SPICER: Hey, good afternoon, everyone. It's been a little while. Hope you missed me.  
(Laughter.)

Q You missed us?

MR. SPICER: Absolutely. We've got a lot to talk about today, so let's get right to it.

First off, I want to acknowledge the tragic plane crash that occurred in Australia that took the lives of five individuals, including four Americans. The President's thoughts and prayers

are with the families of the victims, and the U.S. embassy and consulate are ready to provide necessary and appropriate assistance.

Moving on, the President was honored to announce that Lieutenant General McMaster will be his National Security Advisor. General McMaster served this nation in the United States Army for over three decades, including during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Desert Storm.

The President met with many distinguished and qualified candidates for the position, and as he has said that he will continue to consider many of them for other positions within the administration. He is especially pleased that Lieutenant General Kellogg will stay on as the National Security Council Chief of Staff.

The President is proud to welcome General McMaster to the team where he will have full authority to structure the office to his desires to best serve its ultimate mission, which is to protect the American interests at home and abroad.

This morning, Secretary Kelly and the Department of Homeland Security released memos regarding the implementation of two of the President's executive orders that are designed to protect the homeland. These two memos provide explicit guidance to DHS staff on how to carry out two executive orders signed by the President on January 25th -- one dealing with interior enforcement and one dealing with border security. Perhaps most critically, the President is empowering DHS to carry out the immigration laws currently on the books.

Of course, DHS gave a full briefing on these memos this morning, but just to briefly summarize a few of the facts: The memo regarding the executive order "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States" outlines several practices and policies in order to strengthen the efficient and faithful execution of this country's immigration laws. That includes hiring more ICE agents and officers, as well as additional mission support and legal staff necessary to support their activities. This memo also directs the establishment of the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement Office within ICE, fulfilling another major campaign promise of the President. This office will facilitate the engagement with victims and their families to ensure that their questions and concerns regarding immigration enforcement efforts are addressed.

The memo regarding the executive order "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements" outlines the steps that DHS will take to secure the nation's southern border, prevent further illegal immigration, and to repatriate illegal immigrants swiftly, consistently, and humanely. This includes immediately identifying and allocating all sources of available funding for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of a wall along our southern border and hiring of additional personnel, including 5,000 additional CBP border agents.

Again, I would refer you to DHS for further comment on these specific memos. There are factsheets and Q&As on the DHS website that address many of the intricacies in areas within each of these executive orders that you might have questions on.

Also, this weekend, the President had calls with the President of Panama and the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Readouts of those calls have both been provided.

The President's team this weekend also had a very productive meeting on the President's plan to repeal and replace Obamacare, and ensure that it is replaced with a system that works for all Americans.

Back to the President's schedule today, in honor of Black History Month, the President started his day by visiting the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The museum opened last September and has quickly become one of Washington's most-visited attractions.

The President was joined by a group of individuals that included his daughter, Ivanka; Dr. Ben Carson and his wife; Senator Tim Scott; Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; museum director Lonnie Bunch; Dr. David Skorton, who is the Secretary of the Smithsonian, as well as others.

The President commented several times during his tour about how impressed he was with the museum. Some of the exhibits that he was particularly drawn to included the section on Harriet Tubman, which featured a shawl that was given to her by Queen Victoria in the late 1800s; the section of the museum that featured the courageous contribution of African Americans that have made to the United States military. And the President was particularly pleased by the Muhammad Ali exhibit with the quote, "I shook up the world" prominently displayed.

The President also enjoyed viewing for the first time with Dr. and Mrs. Carson the exhibit dedicated to his extraordinary life. Similarly, Alveda King, who had never viewed the museum's exhibit on her uncle, the President was honored that he was able to share this experience with the two of them specifically.

The President further expressed his appreciation for the tour, and said he looks forward to returning again. His desire is to honor the immense contributions of courageous African American leaders throughout our history by building a more unified country, dedicated to liberty and justice.

This afternoon, the President will have a routine, classified National Security Council briefing in the Situation Room, in addition to his Presidential Daily Briefing, which he received earlier this morning.

Then, this evening the President will have dinner with Vice President Pence. I'm sure that they will discuss the Vice President's recent trip to Europe. The Vice President was an incredible representative for our nation and the President during his time, where he reiterated our support for our European allies in unified pursuit of the noble ideals of freedom, democracy, and justice, and the rule of law and discussing how to do more to encourage all NATO allies to meet their financial obligations and commitments.

During his speech before the Munich Security Conference on Saturday, the Vice President conveyed the administration's unwavering commitment to Europe's peace and prosperity, especially remembering the tens of thousands of Americans who gave their lives to defend those ideals during both World War I and II. These shared sacrifices are the backbone of our alliance and our mission of security through strength.

During his time in Munich, the Vice President also met with nine world leaders. The Vice President and these leaders discussed the issues most pressing to them, including the escalating violence in eastern Ukraine and the role of NATO in the fight against ISIS. The Vice President also met in Brussels with President of Tusk -- Vice President Tusk of the Council of the European Union and NATO Secretary -- the NATO Secretary General.

As a candidate for office, President Trump actually called attention repeatedly to the fact that for too long, many of our NATO allies have not been sharing the financial burden. The President looks forward to working closely with NATO to advance our shared objectives. A strong NATO means a safer world. And the United States looks forward to working with our partners in NATO to achieve just that.

Looking ahead to the President's upcoming schedule -- tomorrow, he will meet with Secretary of State Tillerson, fresh off his trip to Germany for the G20 Foreign Ministers Summit. They'll discuss the President's foreign policy agenda and the Secretary's upcoming trip to Mexico.

Thursday morning, he'll have a listening session regarding job creation in the manufacturing sector with CEOs and business leaders from different industries.

On Friday, he'll deliver remarks to the Conservative Political Action Conference. And we are just one week out today from the President's Joint Address to Congress.

The President will continue to work closely with his team to craft a speech that lays out his ambitious policy agenda that will benefit all Americans. Plans are currently in the works for pre- and post-address activities for the President and his staff. And we'll have more updates as the week goes on.

Before I take your questions, I want to address the recent threats and acts of vandalism on Jewish community centers throughout the country. The President said this morning -- I just

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want to reiterate -- "The anti-Semitic threats targeting our Jewish community centers are horrible and painful, and a very sad reminder of the work that we must do" -- excuse me -- "the work that must be done to root out hate and prejudice and evil."

With that, I'll take some of your questions. Jim Stinson.

Q Sean, thank you. I was curious if the President regrets or wants to clarify his characterization -- by the way, I have two questions -- of the media as an "enemy of the American people."

MR. SPICER: I think the President has been very clear that certain outlets have gone out of their way to not represent his record accurately, and it is a concern to him.

And I think some reporters -- he has deep respect for the First Amendment, for the role of the press -- I've addressed this multiple times in the past. He has a healthy respect for the press. But I think that it's a two-way street, as I've also said before, and I think that the President understands that certain outlets have gone out of their way to not be completely accurate and fair in their coverage of what's going on.

Q Speaking of the media, I've noticed two times in the last week that you've been directly contradicted by two members of the media, one of them Bill Maher of HBO, who said that in front of guests at Mar-a-Lago, the President was briefed on the classified North Korean situation.

MR. SPICER: Say that again, I'm sorry.

Q The President and the Prime Minister of Japan were briefed in front of guests --

MR. SPICER: No, I didn't say that.

Q No, no, no, this is what was being said on HBO, that the President and the Prime Minister were briefed on classified information in front of guests at Mar-a-Lago. I just want to clarify, did that happen? Did they --

MR. SPICER: No. No. I think I walked through this timeline before, Jim. And it's amazing -- a photo gets put out, the President has got a piece of paper, and the immediate conclusion is he's got to be talking about classified information.

The President was briefed on the situation in North Korea prior to the dinner, in a SCIF, that's at Mar-a-Lago. He went and had dinner. He discussed the logistics of the press conference, which I've talked to you all before -- there was a question as to where to hold the press conference. They had a discussion about the logistics of it. And subsequent to that dinner, he was briefed again in a SCIF with updates on the situation in North Korea.

That's it, plain and simple.

But to your first question, I think that it's amazing that the immediate jump of conclusion to several outlets was, well, there's a piece of paper, it must be classified. I don't -- it's amazing to see that and to see people jump to that conclusion that he's surrounded by his staff and members of the Japanese delegation, the conclusion is they must be doing something nefarious or wrong. In fact, he followed every procedure that's laid out.

And I think in some cases, it's disheartening to realize that those are the kind of immediate conclusions that somebody jumps to. So when you talk about coverage, we have a free press. We have the right for people to say and do what they believe. But at some point, it is incumbent upon people to try to get it right. And in that case, it wasn't even attempted. It was a jump to conclusion by many to say that there must be something else going on when, in fact, we were able to provide a very, very clear tick-tock as to what had happened in that.

Jessica.

Q Sean, a question about the resignation of 10 people on the Asian American Council. That happened last week. And in the letter, they said in part, "We can no longer serve a President whose policies aim to create outcomes that are diametrically opposite to our principles, goals and charge." First of all, what's the White House's reaction? And do you plan to appoint your own members to this council?

MR. SPICER: Those members of that council were political appointees of the Obama administration. Their terms were set to expire this year. So it's not surprising in the sense that they were appointees of Barack Obama. They were going to have their terms expire.

Q But in terms of --

But again, but -- I get it, but most political appointees from other agencies or whatever would automatically resign because of the term of these individuals, they would carry through until later in the year. But I don't think it's surprising that people who were appointed by Barack Obama to fulfill his agenda suddenly understand that there is a new administration in town and didn't want to stay on board.

But we will make sure that we appoint people to this task force. It's important. It's something that's provided guidance to multiple presidents in the past, and we will continue to do that.

Shannon.

Q On the statement today about the anti-Semitic acts, what specifically is the President going to do to address that issue? And, along those lines, there were reports earlier on that he was considering changing the mandate of this countering violent extremism program to

focus just on Islamic extremist groups. Is he still considering that, or would he also leave the scope of the program to also consider --

MR. SPICER: Are you talking about the travel executive order?

Q No, no, no, this is the countering violent extremism program that --

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I think we're getting ahead of ourselves there. There's nothing to announce on that front. And secondly, to the first part of your question, I think the President is going to do what he's talked about since election night. It's through deed and action, talk about how we can unify this country and speak out against hate, anti-Semitism, racism. And he's going to continue to do that.

And I think that he will show you over the course of months and years, through what he does in terms of his policies and his speech, that he is going to be a President that brings people together, that unites them, and that speaks very, very forcefully against those who are seeking to do hate or to tear people down because of their religion or their gender or the color of their skin. I mean, those are all things that I think the President was clear on.

John.

Q Two questions unrelated, if I could. The next big piece in the immigration profile here at the White House is going to be the new executive order. Is the President confident that this one will pass legal muster? And if he is, what gives him that confidence?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think -- first, I want to be clear that we feel confident that we're still going to prevail on the case -- the merits of the case. I think that as was seen in the case of Massachusetts, once it is fully adjudicated, we will prevail because the authority is granted to the President to do what he has to, to protect the country. So I feel very, very confident about where we're going to go.

The second track that he's made very clear as well is that until that occurs, we're going to have a dual-track system. And then we're going to make sure that we implement a second executive order that is tailored to achieve the same goals but in accordance with what the court said. So we've been working very closely with the Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice and the team here at the White House to make sure that the next step achieves the President's goal of protecting the country and does so in a way that recognizes the concerns that the court had until we prevail at a later time. So it's a dual-track thing.

Q Will this administration send American terror suspects picked up overseas to Guantanamo Bay for interrogation or prosecution?



MR. SPICER: I am not going to discuss that right now. As the President has said very clearly before, we don't telegraph what we're going to do. I think he has made very clear, though, that he believes that Guantanamo Bay does serve a very, very healthy purpose in our national security in making sure that we don't bring terrorists to our seas. But I'm not going to get into what we may or may not do in the future.

Q Including American citizens?

MR. SPICER: Again, I'm just not going to --

Q Sean, I want to give you a chance to respond to something because I think the President's remarks and your clarification about where he stands on anti-Semitism is clear. But after that statement was made by the President, The Anne Frank Center released a pretty strongly worded one, saying that these remarks, while well-received, are a Band-Aid on the cancer within the Trump administration, saying that there is, whether blessed or otherwise, a sense of xenophobia within this administration. What do you think about that?

MR. SPICER: Look, the President has made clear since the day he was elected and, frankly, going back through the campaign, that he is someone who seeks to unite this country. He has brought a diverse group of folks into his administration, both in terms of actual positions and people that he has sought the advice of. And I think he has been very forceful with his denunciation of people who seek to attack people because of their hate -- excuse me, because of their religion, because of their gender, because of the color of their skin. And it is something that he is going to continue to fight and make very, very clear that he has no place in this administration.

But I think that it's ironic that no matter how many times he talks about this, that it's never good enough. Today I think was an unbelievably forceful comment by the President as far as his denunciation of the actions that are currently targeted towards Jewish community centers, but I think that he's been very clear previous to this that he wants to be someone that brings this country together and not divide people, especially in those areas.

So I saw that statement. I wish that they had praised the President for his leadership in this area. And I think that hopefully, as time continues to go by, they recognize his commitment to civil rights, to voting rights, to equality for all Americans.

Q Sean, on that, the southern part of --

MR. SPICER: We started early with the two questions.

Q Sorry. Sean, Southern Poverty -- I think you'll want to respond to this.

MR. SPICER: Okay.

Q Southern Poverty Law Center said that the number of anti-Muslim groups in the U.S. has tripled between 2015 and 2016, during the time of the campaign. Is this message within the administration -- anti-Semitism is not allowed, xenophobia is not allowed -- anti-Muslim sentiment within the administration, has the President been forceful about that particular issue?

MR. SPICER: I think that the President, in terms of his desire to combat radical Islamic terrorism, he understands that people who want to express a peaceful position have every right in our Constitution. But if you come here or want to express views that seek to do our country or our people harm, he is going to fight it aggressively, whether it's domestic acts that are going on here or attempts through people abroad to come into this country. So there's a big difference between preventing attacks and making sure that we keep this country safe so that there is no loss of life in allowing people to express themselves in accordance with our First Amendment. Those are two very, very different, different, different things.

Q Sean, you talked about how the manufacturing -- I didn't know where you were going.

MR. SPICER: I was (inaudible) in the back. (Laughter.)

Q I saw the manufacturing CEOs are coming on Thursday, so let me ask you something that's important to them, which is the border adjustment tax. The President earlier this year called it "too complicated." Does he still feel that way? And whether he feels this is complicated or not, is there something within the administration one way or another about whether the President, the administration wants to see this in or out of the tax package?

MR. SPICER: So there's several pieces to that that I'll try to unpack. That counts as, like, eight questions.

Q Does he feel it's complicated, and what's your preference?

MR. SPICER: So, first of all, on the meeting on Thursday, this is going to be a really historic opportunity for CEOs to come in and talk to members of the White House staff and others through various agencies about how we can create jobs, how regulations are stifling economic growth. And I think we'll have further details on that, but this is going to be a real interesting opportunity to really create a dialogue I think in a manner that hasn't been done before -- but I'm not going to get ahead of myself on this -- where we can really discuss some of the inhibitors to job creation, job retraining, what do we need for American workers to get them ahead of the curve.

With respect to specific policy positions, I think the President has been very clear that in the next couple weeks we expect to have a tax plan that gets out there. That is being worked on continuously. And so I'm not going to get in front of that. While the CEOs are here, I'm sure

beyond some of these things, that's an opportunity for them to express what some of those policies are that are both helping them create jobs and grow the economy, and also inhibiting them. So let's let that conversation play out.

Yes.

Q Okay, thank you, Sean. My name is Raquel (ph) from TV Global News (ph) Brazil. And I have a question. There are doubts in Brazil right now about what's going to happen to the relationship between the two countries with the new administration, especially related to immigration and also to trade deals. Does President Trump also plan to review policies -- bilateral policies with Brazil in trade deals? And also, my second question, how does the administration see the current turmoil -- economical and political turmoil in Brazil?

And one more question, if I might. (Laughter.) President Trump spoke with some foreign leaders from South America, like Argentina, Colombia and Peru, but not -- it was the Vice President that spoke with President Temer from Brazil. Why is that?

MR. SPICER: Well, obviously, we cherish our relationship with Brazil. I think there's a timing factor here and I think we'll look forward to speaking with the President soon. So I wouldn't read too much into that right now. It's just a matter of getting things on the schedule.

We're going to review all the trade deals that are out there. The President has made very clear some of them have occurred well into a decade, two decades ago. I think the idea is to make sure that we are looking at all of the trade deals we have throughout the globe to make sure that they continue to benefit America and American workers. And in many cases, we can update these deals.

So it's not any one particular country. I think that we're going to look throughout the whole host of trade agreements, and then other trade-related agreements that we have with countries to make sure that they are the most up-to-date and they address the technological advances that have occurred, and look at the various services -- whether it's financial services or manufacturing -- and that they reflect the current state of play.

So this isn't any one country. I think the President made clear throughout the campaign and subsequent that he wants to review every trade deal to make sure that America and American workers are maintaining the best deal possible.

Corbett (ph). Oh, I'm sorry.

Q And on the turmoil, how does the administration see the turmoil in Brazil now?

MR. SPICER: I'm going to -- I think that's a question for the Department of State right now.

Corbett, yeah.

EXH. 2 TO MACLEOD-BALL DEC.

10

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Q Thanks, Sean. Two questions for you. One on the NSC meeting later this afternoon. Is that the first meeting of the National Security Council of the President with all the principals there?

MR. SPICER: No, that is just a routine briefing. But because of the nature of it, it's happening in the Situation Room.

Q But is that with staff, or is that with --

MR. SPICER: Staff.

Q Okay, so it's not with, like, the principals committee.

MR. SPICER: No.

Q When do you anticipate the first formal meeting of the National Security Council?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think General McMaster got here at noon today, so -- (laughter) -- we move fast, but I think that we need to give him a few days probably to get his team together.

So the President was obviously very pleased with the selection. I think when you saw the bipartisan support that General McMaster received from the variety of the political spectrum -- people who have served Republicans and Democrats, academics, pundits, columnists -- you know that he made an outstanding choice. We want to get him in, show him around the office a little bit, and then get him going.

But when we have a date to announce the next meeting, we'll let you know.

Q The joint address for next week, what's the President's goal for that address?

MR. SPICER: I think that -- I'll have a further update as the week goes on, and we'll have briefings. The President is going to lay out I think two main things -- where we've come and where we're going. I think that he is very pleased with the progress that he has made so far in the first month in office, and I think it's an opportunity to remind members of Congress and the American people what he promised them on the campaign trail, what he's done already in a very significant way to achieve and fulfill those promises that he made, but also talk about the challenges that we have as a nation and where we're going. And that's everything from our relationship with other countries in this world to some of the various domestic problems that we face, the challenges that we face in cities, health care, education.

But the President wants to make sure that the American people have a very clear indication as to where he's taking this country and why he's going to enact the policies he's going to enact.

John. George, I'm sorry.

Q Thanks a lot, Sean. Let me ask you a question about the Vice President's European trip. I'm curious whether he received any commitments from our European allies to commit more in terms of their financial contribution to NATO.

MR. SPICER: I think several of them -- I saw Chancellor Merkel's comments previous to that, noting that they understand that the U.S. is asking for that commitment.

Look, we're one of the only countries -- there's a handful -- that are doing what NATO requires, which is 2 percent of GDP. Some of them are at 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, and some of them are below that. But we've got to ask them to do what they agreed to do. And I think we've had a very positive reaction from most of these NATO countries that understand that the financial agreement that they agreed to is something that they need to live up to.

And I think the Vice President continued to receive assurances, much like the President has through his foreign leader calls, where people not only understand it but are willing to follow through on it.

Q So it's an ongoing process, or --

MR. SPICER: Of course it's an ongoing -- I mean, I think we need to follow up to make sure that the commitments that they're making on the phone or in person, in the case of the Vice President, are followed up.

Dave.

Q Sean, thanks. The DHS memos today -- obviously these immigration enforcement efforts cost money, hiring more agents.

MR. SPICER: Right.

Q Do you envision that the current budget is sufficient, or are you going to need to go to Congress for more money?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I think right now ICE and DHS in particular, as well as CBP, are looking at what this is going to cost and how much and putting a request together, and then figuring out how much can be handled through reallocation of resources and how much we can save maybe in another area, but then also work with Congress.

Q One other subject, different matter. There was an election report out today that the President raised more small campaign donations in 2016 than either Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders combined. Did he have a reaction to that? Has he seen that?

MR. SPICER: I don't know, and I would ask you to probably go through the RNC for that. That's a political matter that we generally don't discuss.

Yeah.

Q Sean, the National Center for Transgender Equality, citing reliable sources, says the Trump administration today will rescind Obama-era guidance requiring schools to allow transgender kids to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity. Will the Trump administration rescind that guidance?

MR. SPICER: Right now that's an issue that the Department of Justice and the Department of Education are addressing. I would tell you that -- and I think that there will be further guidance coming from DOJ in particular with respect to not just the executive order, but also the case that's in front of the Supreme Court.

The President has maintained for a long time that this is a states' rights issue and not one for the federal government. So while there will be further guidance coming out on this, I think that all you have to do is look at what the President's view has been for a long time -- that this is not something that the federal government should be involved in; this is a states' rights issue.

Matt.

Q In the wake of the Vice President's trip to Europe, there's questions as to the administration's position on the future of the European Union with regard to a number of political movements across the continent advocating for the disbandment eventually of the European Union. I wanted to see if you could clarify the administration's position on the future of the European Union.

MR. SPICER: I think the Vice President had great meetings with several European Union leaders and made it very clear to them that we'll continue to work with them, and reaffirmed our commitment to working with these nations. I mean, there's no update on that.

Cecilia.

Q Thank you. On immigration, on the DHS memo, two parts, if I may. Is one of the goals here mass deportation?

MR. SPICER: No, not at all. This isn't -- look, I think what we have to get back to is understanding a couple things. There's a law in place that says if you're in this country illegally, that we have an obligation to make sure that the people who are in our country are here legally. What the order sets out today is ensures that the million-or-so people that

have been adjudicated already, that ICE prioritizes, creates a system of prioritization, and makes sure that we walk through that system in a way that protects this country.

This is consistent with everything the President has talked about, which is prioritizing the people who are here who represent a threat to public safety or have a criminal record. And all this does is lay out the exact procedures to make sure that that subgroup of people who pose a threat to our nation because of a conviction or a violation of public safety or have a criminal record are adjudicated first and foremost. That's it, plain and simple.

Q So is then -- a follow-up to that. Is the White House's message to date to undocumented people in this country whose only crime is being in this country illegally, "Don't worry, or you're on notice"?

MR. SPICER: No, the message from this White House and from the DHS is that those people who are in this country and pose a threat to our public safety or have committed a crime will be the first to go and we will be aggressively making sure that that occurs. That is what the priority is.

Q What about the others who aren't? They're watching this fearful right now.

MR. SPICER: Cecilia, the President has said multiple times that we've got to look at this issue on a very, very holistic way. And the number-one priority when you look at the scope of how many people are in the country illegally, the number-one priority is making sure that people who pose a threat to this country are immediately dealt with. And this is not a small group of people; we're talking close to a million people who have already been adjudicated and had their status processed through a formal due process system.

And so what we need to do now is to make sure that we focus the resources and the efforts on those people going first and foremost. And the factsheet and the information that we put out lays that out very, very clearly what is being done. But for so long, the people at ICE and CBP had their hands cuffed behind them. And when they were going to deal with the mission of their job, the last administration had so many carve-outs for who could be and who couldn't be adjudicated that it made it very difficult for the customs and enforcement people to do their job and enforce the laws of this country.

But right now, what we've done is to make sure that they have the ability and the guidance and the resources to do what their mission is. And that's it, plain and simple. And the President is consistent with his priority of making sure that those people who pose a threat to this country are the first ones to go.

Alexis.

Q Sean, on immigration, just to follow up, the President has a carve-out himself for DACA.



MR. SPICER: Yeah.

Q Can you explain the process -- expand on what you were saying on Thursday about the process that the administration is taking to decide --

MR. SPICER: And this is what I was basically talking to Cecilia about, which is the President has made clear when you have 12, 14, 15 million people in the country illegally, that there has to be a system of priority. And right now, ICE's priority is going to make sure that we focus first and foremost on that. Specifically, in the guidance, it talks about the DACA and DAPA, unless someone who fits under that program fits into the sub-category is not subject to what is being dealt with now.

Remember, everybody who is here illegally is subject to removal at any time. That is consistent with every country, not just ours. If you're in this country in an illegal manner, that obviously there's a provision that could ensure that you be removed. But the priority that the President has laid forward and the priority that ICE is putting forward through DHS's guidance is to make sure that the people who have committed a crime or pose a threat to our public safety are the priority of their efforts, first and foremost.

Katelyn.

Q John Kasich --

Q Let me follow. The President has also, and his team has also had reservations about undocumented people in the United States who are beneficiaries of public assistance or access to benefits, either at the state or the federal level. What is the President going to be doing to either issue guidance or executive action of some sort to indicate that he would like to preclude that from continuing?

MR. SPICER: I think we have talked in the past about the respect that the President has for taxpayer money with respect to sanctuary cities and the enforcement measures that he's putting forward on immigration. Right now, obviously, the actions today are focused on people who are in this country and what we need to do on our southern border to facilitate the building of the wall that he's talked about.

So we're doing this one step at a time in a very methodical way, and right now the focus is to make sure that ICE and CBP and DHS have the authority and the resources to carry out that first mission. We will have more -- and then continues to see that immigration is one of those issues that he was very, very clear and consistent on in the campaign, and we're going to continue to implement the policies that he talked about to keep the country safe.

Katelyn.



Q Thank you. John Kasich has been a very vocal critic of President Trump, even in the campaign, saying his immigration plan was crazy, his statement that the elections were rigged was silly, and he did not endorse him and did not vote for him. What is the President hoping to accomplish with their meeting at the White House on Friday?

MR. SPICER: So, Governor Kasich has reached out on multiple occasions to meet with the President to follow on, and the President has shown through the transition and since his time in office that he wants to meet with anybody that can help move this country forward and share in his vision. I think that includes people who are with him, who are not with him, who are on the other side of the aisle, who are independents, union workers, business leaders.

Now that he is President -- and, frankly, I would again date it back to the transition -- he understands that he's the President for every American. And he's talked consistently about having a united country. And you do that by bringing people together, whether or not they agree with you on every issue, or one or two issues. But if there's common ground that can be found to move the country forward, then great. And I think so many of the President's priority issues are issues that Ohio is dealing with and that he wants to make sure that he can continue to work with Governor Kasich so that every American benefits.

April.

Q Did Kasich ask for the meeting?

MR. SPICER: Yes.

Q Okay, what did the President gain from his tour today? You talked about where he visited, the exhibits that he visited. Did he also visit slavery? And the reason why I'm asking is, is because when he was candidate Trump, he said things like "we made this country," meaning white America, and not necessarily black. Did he gain --

MR. SPICER: I don't know why you would say that. What do you mean?

Q No, no, no, he said that. I heard him say that.

MR. SPICER: No, no, but look -- the answer to your question is -- one of the first exhibits that he visited was one of the slavery exhibits. And the director walked him through some very amazing stories and statistics about where slavery was prevailing, not just in traditional Southern colonies but throughout the country. So they did have a very robust discussion about slavery early on in the tour.

And I think that it was a very eye-opening and powerful tour for him, and, frankly, for every American. And I would encourage any American that can find the time and get in, because it's so popular. But it really is an enlightening as far as parts of our history, what people may not

fully appreciate or know, and the contributions and the sacrifices that so many Americans have made that are a critical piece to our history that sometimes don't get the attention they deserve.

So I think the President walked away from there -- and I mentioned in the remarks that he mentioned to Lonnie that he wanted to come back, because you can't do it justice. And it's much like the Holocaust Museum where you go through it once and then you sit there and start thinking of all the things that you saw, and think, you know, I'd like to go back and more fully explore what I saw because it piqued some degree of interest or intellectual curiosity.

But he was very taken aback. It's a very, very powerful institution and tour, and it covers a lot of ground. I think he was really proud to share it with Dr. Carson. I mean, when you walk through that museum and you see all of the elements of our history, when you walk up to this one glass exhibit that is Dr. Carson's scrubs and pictures of him, and to experience that with him and his wife for the first time, and you realize how amazing that is for any American to be part of a Smithsonian, and you're standing with Dr. Carson and his wife where he is experiencing it with you for the first time and how powerful that must have been was, I think, a real interesting opportunity for him to sit there, hand to hand, with another American and watch them be part of American history. And you also appreciate some of the real contributions that Dr. Carson has made to medicine and the depth and breadth of his accomplishments.

Q And lastly, kind of putting this with the next question, is there any advancement on the CBC meeting with the President? And also, the head of the CBC said he was wondering if the President saw anything from current and past members of the CBC while he was in the museum, to get a little bit of information on them before this meeting happens.

MR. SPICER: I'll have further updates on that. I know the President looks forward to that meeting, and I think that we're in the process of trying to begin setting that up. And so I'll have further updates on that once we get closer. I know that we've got some additional work before the month concludes on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and some meetings that we're working on with them. But I want to get them locked in before I go further.

Q What did he think about the members that he saw in the museum?

MR. SPICER: Well, when you walk through one of them, there's a big jumbotron, and we paused for a while, and John Lewis was there giving a very powerful speech. And we just paused and watched that for a little while. So, again, I think that, respectfully, when you walk through a museum like this there's a lot of moments where you're just stopping and taking it in, and there's -- if you haven't been there, you walk up this one ramp and they stop

and there's two big screens, and one of them is a video screen, and it's a massive jumbotron

--

Q The civil rights --

MR. SPICER: Right. And we watched the video of John Lewis talking there and describing his efforts in championing voting and civil rights.

So I know the President paused and watched it and listened to it. And again, I would just go back to how he described his overall -- we didn't dissect the different things, but I watched him and it was a very powerful experience for him, and I know he looks forward to going back.

Hallie.

Q Sean, two questions for you. First one on undocumented immigrants. You just made very clear that the President's priority is to deport those who pose a threat to public safety.

MR. SPICER: Correct.

Q I know you're familiar with the case in Arizona of the mother, Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos. Is she a threat to this country?

MR. SPICER: I'm going to leave that up to ICE. We don't get involved from the White House to particular cases. That's not --

Q But she's a symbol --

MR. SPICER: You're right, and I understand.

Q But is she a threat to public safety, though?

MR. SPICER: But, Hallie, I think the answer is, is that ICE determined that she had violated the law in a way that was in accordance with this. Again, we've got to go back to this idea that our job, especially here at the White House, isn't to call balls and strikes and say, well, this person only violated part of the law, or let them go on this.

If this was any other subject, if this was tax evasion and we said, well, they only really violated a little bit of -- they only cheated on their taxes a little, you wouldn't be saying hey, should they really be going to be prison or should they be getting a fine? At some point, laws are laws. And if people have a problem with the law, whether it's at the local, state or federal issue, then we should petition our lawmakers and the executive at that particular branch of government and change it. But our job shouldn't be to figure out should this individual not have to abide by the law, should this individual get a pass. If we want to

change the law, we've got a very amazing process here in this country to both create and change laws.

And so I don't want to comment on the specifics of any one case because I think that then puts the White House in a position of deciding who is following the law and who isn't, and who should get a pass. The bottom --

Q But isn't it different from you just said of prioritization of cases? There's a difference --

MR. SPICER: No, no, there's a difference. When you have 13 or 14 million people, they're in the country -- you know, I think it's one thing to say prioritize people who pose a threat to public safety and go after this individual or that individual, or whatever. There's no question, you have to have priorities in anything -- what do you do first, what do you do second, what do you do third. And when you're talking about, 13, 14, 15, potentially more, millions of people in this country, the President needed to give guidance, especially after what they went through in the last administration where there were so many carve-outs that ICE agents and CBP members had to figure out each individual whether or not they fit in a particular category and they could adjudicate that case. The President wanted to take the shackles off individuals in these agencies and say: You have a mission, there are laws that need to be followed; you should do your mission and follow the law. And for specific cases, I would refer you to ICE in particular and do that.

Q Sean, where did you get the 13 and 14 million number?

MR. SPICER: Hold on, Hallie is on number two.

Q Thank you.

Q The 13, 14 million number -- where did you get that number?

MR. SPICER: Glenn, will you please not interrupt her?

Q Do you want to take that now?

MR. SPICER: No, no, I think -- I'm not going to allow you to be interrupted.

Q So the second question is on the anti-Semitism comments that you referenced from the podium, the President made very clear. You said, though, that he has taken opportunities in the past. Just last week, though, he had the opportunities to deliver a message to the American people about anti-Semitism. He made very clear he was not anti-Semitic and he was, in fact, insulted by that. But as far as a broader message to the American people, he declined to offer one. Is the President comfortable with his obligation as the leader of this country to deliver that kind of broad and forceful message to Americans? And if so, why didn't he do it sooner in the case of these attacks?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think the idea, Hallie, that -- he has. And I think there's a point at which he talked literally on election night about uniting this country and making sure that all Americans, et cetera. And every time there's an instance, it's interesting -- I mean, I get a question, "Is he going to denounce this one, is he going to denounce this one?" At some point, the question is asked and answered. He has stood very forcefully against --

Q That's not what I'm asking. I'm not asking --

MR. SPICER: What are you --

Q I'm asking, is he comfortable with his role as the person who needs to be delivering a broader message to America, not denouncing it, which he did clearly today.

MR. SPICER: Right. And I think that he is very comfortable and understands that as the leader of the free world, the President of this country, the Commander-in-Chief, that he has an awesome responsibility to make it very clear where we're going as a country and what our values are, and that he has spoken very forcefully that we don't stand for this kind of behaviors, and words, and intolerance, that we are a country that should bring people together and that we shouldn't tolerate people who are hating on individuals because of their gender or because of their religion or the color of their skin, or a variety of other things, but that there's a point at which it's asked and answered.

And I think the President has been very clear over and over again, going back through the campaign, the transition and now, that that's the kind of President that he wants to be, that's the kind of country that he wants to lead.

Trey.

Q Thanks, Sean. Following the DHS memos this morning, the ACLU said the courts won't allow these orders to become a reality. How is the administration preparing for another potential legal battle? And do you have any response to the ACLU?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think we have done a phenomenal job of working with the various departments, particularly DHS and DOJ, State, and through the White House staff, to make sure that we are well within any concerns that the court might have.

And as I mentioned, I think it's important to continue to emphasize we feel as though the first one did that as well, and we were vindicated several times in the court. We have an issue with the 9th Circuit and I think we will overcome that, ultimately, on the merits. But in the meantime, a dual-track is something that we wanted to pursue to make sure that we do everything we can, as I mentioned before, to keep the country safe.

Q Sean, thank you. The Australian foreign minister is here today, meeting the Vice

President.

MR. SPICER: I'm sorry, say that again.

Q The Australian foreign minister is meeting the Vice President today and also the Secretary of State tomorrow. I guess we can assume that the U.S.-Australia refugee deal will come up. Now, last time we spoke, the President was still considering and reviewing a deal. Can you just update us on what the current position is?

MR. SPICER: We'll have a readout of that.

Q And just --

MR. SPICER: Okay, of course everyone gets two. (Laughter.)

Q If you could just update us on the current position on the deal. And also, given that recent exposure on the President's distaste for it, will Australia be expected to return the favor?

MR. SPICER: Look, again, I would wait. We'll have a readout after that call as far as what they discussed. But I've got nothing -- I don't want to get ahead of the Vice President's meeting with either the Secretary of State or the Vice President.

Kristen.

Q Thank you. I have two questions. One, on the immigration refugee executive order that we're expecting in the coming days, so that it withstands legal challenges, can you tell us what the language might look like as it relates to Syrian refugees?

MR. SPICER: I appreciate the effort, but when we have it ready we'll get it out. And I think part of this is --

Q (Inaudible) ban on Syrian refugees?

MR. SPICER: Excuse me? Again, I appreciate the second try, but we're not ready to announce it. And part of it is, is that we're making sure that it is completely ready to go. And so when we have that, we will get it out to you. And I would just -- the reason that we haven't announced it is it's not ready to be announced.

Q I want to try one more on --

MR. SPICER: Of course.

Q -- the comments that the President made today about anti-Semitism. In terms of the timing, obviously he was asked about it, but they also came after his daughter, Ivanka, sent out that tweet. Has she counseled him? Was she one of the people saying it's important for you to forcefully denounce this? Why today?

MR. SPICER: Because the President was visiting the African American Museum, he wanted to make it very clear. I think it was very powerful that, while there, and while understanding the struggles of so many -- and we talk about how one of the beauties of history is that we don't repeat itself. And I think that when you're at a museum like that and seeing the struggles that so many Americans faced and overcame, that you want to remind people that there is still issues that our country is grappling with and that there is no place for that hate and for that language.

And I think -- as I mentioned, it was a very powerful opportunity for him to say that and to make clear, again, what his opinions were.

Q Does he regret not doing it last week, Sean?

MR. SPICER: I'm sorry?

Q Does he regret not stating this comment last week?

MR. SPICER: The President was very clear. That was a very -- I think, as I mentioned to Hallie, he has discussed this over and over again. I think there's a point to which his position is abundantly clear. His attempts and his desire and his rhetoric to unite the country has been expressed over and over again.

Sarah.

Q Thanks, Sean. The New York Times is reporting that Trump's budget director is preparing a budget that eliminates the Export-Import Bank. But several lawmakers, including Senator Heitkamp, have come out of private meetings with President Trump and said that in those private meetings he expressed support for the export bank. So which is it? Does he support Ex-Im or does he support eliminating it?

MR. SPICER: I can confirm that the OMB director -- the budget director is working on a budget. (Laughter.) Beyond that, I'm not going to get ahead of the OMB director right now. They are drafting a budget, they are talking to members of Congress and other interested parties about funding levels and such, but we're not at a position to go yet.

Yes.

Q Sean, just wanted to circle on Alexis's question. Since the DHS guidance did not eliminate DACA, does that mean that the program is remaining in place, that it's a settled matter and it's not going away?

MR. SPICER: No, Jordan. What it means is that this particular enforcement is tailored to what I have been referencing over and over again -- that what we're talking about today is the implementation of those two executive orders, one specifically that's tasking the



agencies under DHS to address a very specific problem of the million or so, plus or minus, people that they have identified, that they have then adjudicated with already going through the process to be adjudicated and taken out of the country.

Q That means a decision on DACA could come any day.

MR. SPICER: That's right, exactly. It just means that this -- what it means, more than anything, is that this order does not address that and it's very clear in the Q&A -- and, again, I would refer you back to DHS's website that has all of that.

Goyal.

Q Thank you very much. Two questions please. One, it's been one month on the job for you and for the President, and you are already talk of the town around the globe. (Laughter.) My two questions are, one --

MR. SPICER: My wife would disagree with you. (Laughter.) It's not always positive, too.

Q It looks like, Sean, that the President's order is working at least around the globe because more than 60,000 Pakistanis have been deported by Saudi Arabia. But they're saying that they were illegals and also they're a threat to the country. And also, at the same time, Pakistani government is arresting hundreds of terrorists inside the country. Any presidential message?

MR. SPICER: Look, I'm not going to -- there's nothing that I have in terms of an update of what's going on in Pakistan. I would refer you to the Department of State with respect to specific policies. But the broader point that you're making is I think each country needs to look at what they need to do to control the people that are entering their country and keep their people safe.

When you look at our laws in particular, and compare them to so many other countries around the globe, we actually tend to probably fall in the lower end of how tough our immigration policies are vis-à-vis someone else.

Q Sean, my second question.

MR. SPICER: I'm sorry.

Q As far as illegal immigrants are concerned in the U.S., millions of illegal immigrants that were waiting for the last eight or ten years that they might see a light in the dark tunnel, and now they're hoping that President Trump will have a light for them. So what is the President's message for them who are in this country for five, 10, 15 or 20 years but they're not -- they don't have any criminal records?



MR. SPICER: Well, look, the President has said before he's got a big heart. And I think that as we continue to develop policy on immigration, it's going to be, as we've talked about in the past, prioritized -- what we go after first, second third. The President has made very clear he understands the plight of some of those individuals. He's got a big heart. He understands the impact it has on many families, many communities.

But we will continue to develop policies that will address that. And again, today's focus is specifically on those two executive orders, and I'm going to limit it to that.

Q Sean, at the beginning of the month, Senator John McCain sent a letter to the President requesting that the administration provide arms to Ukrainians fighting Russian separatists within their country. When will the President respond to Senator McCain's letter? And what is the administration's position on lethal aid to Ukrainians fighting Russian separatists?

MR. SPICER: I don't have anything for you on that. I'll try to get back to you on that. I know that we're very pleased to watch Senator McCain praise the pick of General McMaster.

That's obviously someone that we will consult with. But we were pleased to see so much support for him.

Scott Newman (ph).

Q On Russia -- critics of the President have said that at time he doesn't talk tough enough on the subject. General McMaster, though, has been labeled by a lot of people as being pretty hawkish. I'm curious what, if any, difference in tone or tenor or strategy we should expect now that they're working together.

Q Well, I think, as I mentioned a couple times, I think there is widespread praise for General McMaster and his understanding and command of national security matters, foreign policy matters. He's going to be a great asset to the President's national security team.

But ultimately, the President has always been the decider, whether it's Russia or any other issue. And I think you're right, he has made it very clear that if he can get a deal with Russia, something that the last several administrations have tried to do, that he's going to do it.

And if he can't, he won't. But he is going to try. And I think his success as a businessman and negotiator should be seen as a positive sign for him to be able to do that.

But he understands that if he can find common ground on defeating ISIS and combatting terrorism, growing the economy where we can find areas of economic interest, then we're going to do it. But that's where we're going to continue to work with Russia if we can. He'll get a deal. If he can't, he won't. But he's going to try. And I think where others have failed, he's going to make sure that he does everything possible to make sure that if it's in the interest of the United States he will get a deal.

Q I have another question on General McMaster. So how much leeway is he going to get to restructure, to bring on his own people? There were some reports that Admiral Harward was not allowed to, or others as well. So can you address that?

MR. SPICER: Thank you. I can. He will have 100 percent. The President has been very, very clear with that. He is the National Security Advisor, and he will have whatever he needs to implement a successful team.

But with respect to Admiral Harward that you brought up, Admiral Harward made it very, very clear that he wanted this job, he would love to take it. He was impressed with the team. But during the course of discussions, it came up -- he said: Before I continue with this discussion, I need to address some financial and family concerns. He went back, he came back to us and said, I am unable to continue the discussions because of there's some financial concerns and some family issues that we have. I spent 40 years serving this country in the United States Navy.

I talked to him again Saturday night, and he said: If there's another opening in a year or two, I would be honored, I am so impressed with the team that's there.

And I would urge people to actually talk to him. He was so excited about being part of the team. He was available to as many reporters as he could take. We gave out his information -- his contact information. And he's been very clear. He wrote a letter to the President prior to -- first thing Tuesday morning. He was in the UAE, he sent the letter over and we had it first thing in the morning, where he said, because of family concerns, because of some financial constraints, having served this nation for 40 years, I can't take this job, but I'm unbelievably impressed.

All of the rumors about the discretion that he would have over staff or any other thing were 100 percent false. He's made it clear that he would love to serve in the future, that he was impressed with the team, that he wanted to do this. There were just some constraints financially and family-wise that come with -- or after having served 40 years in the military, sacrifices both financially and family-wise that he had had to make.

But I talked to him several times, and the team has talked to him. But ultimately, the President was very, very impressed with General McMaster. He had always been one of the individuals that he thought stood above so many other folks. He was impressed with the entire list, John Bolton and others. But so many people had spoken to him. General Mattis, Tom Cotton, other senators really praised General McMaster's command of the issues, his management, his style, his understanding of the geopolitical landscape. And I think that's why you saw such amazing widespread bipartisan praise for him, and why he will be such an asset to the national security team. So, ultimately, we ended up with the best choice. And I think that's going to benefit not just this administration but our entire nation.

Q Sean, can we expect him to get anyone else from the top of -- any senior people at the NSC?

MR. SPICER: I'm sorry?

Q Can we expect that he may replace any others in the NSC?

MR. SPICER: Again, I just can't be any clearer. I think that we've got an amazing team. He's been impressed with them. But the President has, as he did with other candidates, told them that they would lead the team and that he would have the discretion of it.

Jeff.

Q I just wanted to follow on that. You said that he has the full authority to structure his office as he sees fit. Does that extend to the principals committee, as well? After he comes in and takes a look at the whole apparatus, if he advises the President and he would prefer not to have the chief strategist as a member of the principals committee, would the President --

MR. SPICER: I think the President has made clear to him he's got full authority to structure the national security team the way he wants. Obviously, with something like that, he would come to the President and make that recommendation. But the President would take that under serious consideration. I don't want to go ahead with this person or that person or structure, but the President made it very clear with him and the other candidates that they had 100 percent control and authority over the national security committee.

Thank you, guys. I'll see you tomorrow.

Q Will McMaster have to retire? Can you clarify that?

MR. SPICER: No, he will stay on active duty.

Q Does that require Senate confirmation then?

MR. SPICER: No. He will stay on active duty. That was the case with Powell and I think some other folks.

Q One more clarification just before you go. So when the new EO comes out, you won't rescind the original one and you'll leave it in place?

MR. SPICER: That's correct. Yes. Thank you, guys.

END

2:41 P.M. EST



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## The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2017

# Press Briefing by Press Secretary Sean Spicer, 2/22/2017, #14

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

12:55 P.M. EST

MR. SPICER: Good afternoon, everyone. I wanted to wait until the President finished up with his remarks on the budget before I came out. As you saw, he's -- a really good opportunity to sit down with his team. It's clearly been a busy day here at the White House again, so I'm going to kind of keep it quick and get to your questions.

This morning, after receiving his daily intelligence briefing, the President met with Secretary of State Tillerson. As you all know, Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Kelly will travel to Mexico City later today as one of their first foreign trips. It's significant that the President is sending the secretaries to Mexico so early in the administration.

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It's symbolic of the meaningful relationship that our two nations have. These are important meetings regarding the President's agenda to improve the quality of lives for both people of Mexico and the United States by combatting drug traffickers and finding ways to bolster both our economies through a broader relationship that promotes commerce and legal immigration. This is a very encouraging start to a working relationship with an incredible neighbor to the south.

At this moment, the President has just wrapped up his discussions on the federal budget with some of the officials and staff who will be instrumental in the work to put this country back on a responsibly fiscal path.

Joining the meeting were Reince Priebus, the Chief of Staff; Steve Bannon; Jared Kushner; Gary Cohn, the Director of the National Economic Council; Secretary Steve Mnuchin of the Department of Treasury; Director Mulvaney of the Office of Management and Budget; Russ Vought of the Office of Management and Budget; and Emma Doyle of Office of Management and Budget.

As the President mentioned last week, we look forward to presenting our tax reform plan and providing much-needed tax reform and relief to the hardworking men and women of our nation. The President is going to restore and respect the American taxpayer by enabling them to keep more of their hard-earned money, and by making sure the federal government spends money more responsibly. After the lunch, the President will continue this important discussion with other members of the senior staff.

Additionally, the Vice President today is in St. Louis to participate in listening sessions with American workers and employees of the Fabick Cat equipment and engineer\* [engine] dealer, a 100-year-old family-owned and operated business.

During his visit, the Vice President will discuss the economic comeback in store for our nation under the President's economic agenda and with small business owners and employees. The President has already made strides towards slashing redundant regulations through his executive actions, and we will work with Congress to enact further pro-growth legislation.

Back to the President's schedule. Later this afternoon, the President will participate in his standing legislative affairs strategy session. Our legislative affairs team is in constant contact with our counterparts on the Hill, keeping an open dialogue on all aspects of the President's agenda. Last week alone, more than 40 different senators and members of Congress visited the White House.

On the Supreme Court front, so far Judge Gorsuch has met with 58 senators -- 36 Republicans and 22 Democrats -- and he has more meetings already on the books for next week when the Senate returns to session. We've been especially encouraged by the

reception he's received from several senior Democrats, including Senators Feinstein, Tester, Durbin, and Gillibrand.

Also on the confirmation front, multiple unions came out today for Alex Acosta, the President's nominee for Labor Secretary. Both the Laborers' International Union of North America and the International Union of Operating Engineers praised his distinguished career and pledged their support for his nomination.

The legislative affairs team is using the congressional work period to coordinate with key coalitions in Congress. They are meeting with different groups in the House and Senate, including the staff of the Congressional Black Caucus, House and Senate leadership, and staff throughout various committees. We've used this work period as an opportunity to invite staffers from both sides of the aisle to come to the White House and discuss shared priorities and find common ground on the way forward.

And we're not just reaching out to Capitol Hill, we've actively engaged with key leaders and policymakers around the country. It's critical to this administration that we gather input from states and from people throughout the country, rather than just leaders here in Washington.

Looking ahead to tomorrow, the President will meet with a group of world-class business leaders to discuss specific actions he can take to remove barriers to job creation. These leaders, many of whom represent some of the country's largest manufacturers, will begin the day in working groups with the Vice President, Cabinet members and key aides of the President's staff. The working groups will engage in a deep-dive conversation on the attendees' specific areas of expertise. Topics of discussion include deregulation, tax and trade, training and the workforce of the future, and infrastructure.

Vice President Pence will be engaged with each of the groups. And after the groups conclude their discussion, the President's staff will compile the feedback and the President will sit down with the entire group for a listening session on some of their recommendations.

As you can tell by the structure of the meeting, the President is expecting these interactions to lead to real action being taken by the administration. Creating a dynamic and booming economy that works for all Americans continues to be at the top of his domestic policy agenda. As a successful businessman himself, the President knows that if we're going to get the country back to work, we need to hear directly from job creators what is holding them back, and, where appropriate, take steps to remove the barriers.

In his first month in office, the President has already taken numerous actions to boost job creation, and key economic indicators are showing that it's working. CEO and [consumer]



confidence are up, the stock market continues to reach record highs, and the January numbers were strong. The meetings on Thursday will continue to build on that momentum.

And with that, I'm glad to take some questions. Steve Holland.

Q Steve Holland is not here.

MR. SPICER: Sorry, Jeff Mason gets it. (Laughter.)

Q Thank you, Sean. Can you give us an update on the administration's plans with regard to transgender bathrooms in schools? And can you confirm that there has been some disagreement between Secretary DeVos and the Attorney General on this issue?

MR. SPICER: So I would expect further guidance to come out on that today. The President, as I said yesterday, is a firm believer in states' rights. When you look at the guidance that was issued under the Obama administration -- first of all, let's remember, to the best of my knowledge, that was stalled and never fully implemented. And I think there were various reasons for that -- several legal reasons and several procedural reasons. And so the Department of Education and the Department of Justice, both who jointly issued that guidance back during the Obama administration, are now working together again under a Trump administration, they've been reviewing the guidance that was signed, the basis by which it was put through. And I think there have been several areas of concern, both legal and procedural, that they have been discussing.

And I think where you might be hearing something is more on the timing and the wording of stuff. The conclusions, everybody in the administration is agreed upon. There is no daylight between anybody -- between the President, between any of the Secretaries. I think there has been some discussion between the timing of the issuance and recommendations, or between the exact wording.

But as far as the conclusions go, I've made this clear and the President has made it clear throughout the campaign that he is a firm believer in states' rights and that certain issues like this are not best dealt with at the federal level.

Q Sean, a report out today that some Cabinet Secretaries are bristling at what they see as the White House micromanaging staffing at the sub-Cabinet level. To what degree does the White House think that it should impose its hiring approvals on members of the sub-Cabinet? And is some of this at least partially driven by Cabinet Secretaries wanting to appoint people who might not necessarily be aligned with the President's thinking?

MR. SPICER: Well, I mean, I think when you come to -- they're called political appointees for a reason. The idea is that people who come into this government should want to support and enact the President's agenda that he campaigned on with the American people. And I

think one of the reasons that you see in recent polls the President -- people, even if they don't agree with the President, they give him high marks for following through on the promises that he's made to the American people and getting things done that he actually said, which is not always the case here in Washington.

And I think that we want to make sure that the people who staff a Trump administration are committed to a Trump agenda, and that's -- so Cabinet Secretaries and other administrators and directors have broad discretion. But I think at the end of the day, no matter what position you have -- whether it's the lowest or the highest in the White House or in a department or agency -- we should be making sure that people who are coming in as appointees of the President support the President's agenda. And I think that's one thing -- this isn't about getting a job as a federal employee where you're subject to certain restrictions as to what you can and can't do as a benefit of being a federal employee. These are political appointees, and so I think that there is obviously -- we are going to ensure that people who are political appointees share the vision and agenda that the President campaigned on and is implementing.

Q And does the White House believe that it needs to have the final approval of these people or can you trust your Cabinet Secretaries to --

MR. SPICER: It's not a question of trust. It's a question of just making sure that we're all on the same page and committed to the same agenda that the President has set forth. This process is probably no different than we've seen in previous administrations. Cabinet Secretaries come to the President with recommendations on who they want, and it depends on the position, obviously.

But in certain cases, if they're going to fulfill a job that is a key area that the President had very specific goals to enact that he promised the American people, you want to make sure that the person that is fulfilling that job actually is committed to the agenda and the vision that the President set forth and promised the American people. And that's -- so there is -- that's something that we're always going to be making sure is in alignment.

Q And is this approval process in some way slowing down the appointment of crucial staffers?

MR. SPICER: No. No, not at all. I don't think so. I think when you look across where we are and we track the number of folks that are in the pipeline, we're doing very, very well with getting all of these positions filled. And I think once in a while, you might hear of one or two people, but overall, generally speaking, I mentioned during the transition period how many members of the beachhead teams that we had, and I think we -- those members who are appointed through the beachhead process had 120 days. And they were there to allow

basically a four-month process for Secretaries in the White House to make sure that people on a permanent basis could populate those positions. And that's what's happening.

But make no mistake -- I mean, we were ahead of the curve on the beachhead teams. We were very clear with the landing teams during the transition. This has been a very methodical process that has seen from top to bottom through, and I think we're doing a phenomenal job of staffing the government.

Margaret.

Q Thank you. Oh, which Margaret?

MR. SPICER: Oh, lucky me. (Laughter.)

Q Two Margarets. I'm going to take mine -- I've got a Bloomberg-y question for you. (Laughter.)

MR. SPICER: I've got a Sean-y answer for you. (Laughter.)

Q The President in the Roosevelt Room just said to us that, among other things, that the tax plan is nearly finalized but it can't be submitted until the healthcare plan statutorily or otherwise is, so we're doing the healthcare. So what I wanted to clarify was, is the White House doing a healthcare proposal, or was he talking about Congress and not the White House? Or is there a new plan?

MR. SPICER: Well, obviously -- right. So obviously there's two vehicles -- reconciliation vehicles that -- FY17 -- I'm going to give you a Bloomberg-y answer. (Laughter.) The FY17 reconciliation, that was never completed because the budget wasn't finalized in the last Congress. And then you've got the 2018. I think we want to make sure -- look at the opportunities to work with Congress on Obamacare, utilizing the 2017, and then you could utilize the 2018 reconciliation and budget process to do tax reform.

That's not -- and again, that's not prescriptive. I'm not -- but as far as why the President is saying it that way is because we've got that option available to us right now, and I think the President is committed to making sure that the promise that he made to the American people to repeal and replace Obamacare continues to be first and foremost, and then his tax plan.

But it's not a "we can walk and chew gum" kind of thing. We can actually be continuing to work with Congress and the leadership in both Houses.

Q President Obama used to say that. Just to do the Bloomberg-y timeline, there's a few things that are going to happen then. There's going to be a budget plan that you guys are going to present on March 13th-ish.

MR. SPICER: Ish. (Laughter.)

Q There's going to be a healthcare -- this is where I got lost again -- something from him and something from them, and a tax reform plan afterwards? Is that the way it works?

MR. SPICER: I don't want -- look, when we're ready to announce stuff -- but I think again, I think you've got Obamacare, the budget, and tax reform. It's going to be a very busy March and April for us. And we've been continuing to work with Congress to make sure that that's implemented.

Noah Bierman.

Q Does the President -- you were talking about fulfilling his promises. As you know, he promised during the campaign a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the country. There were a lot of people in his party who thought that was a very good proposal. Can you explain his evolution in backing down from that? And can you also say whether he regrets using that rhetoric, since it ended up hurting the court case?

MR. SPICER: Well, again, I'd go back to the merits of the case and the order that gives him the authority to make that. U.S. Code 1182 is very clear. The President was very clear in his executive order that these were countries that we didn't have the proper vetting for when it came to ensuring the safety of Americans.

That's what the executive order said. The authority is very clear to have done it. And I think that you're going to continue to see the President take the steps necessary to protect this country. That's why he's talked about fighting this on both fronts, making sure that we keep evolving through the court system on the existing EO, and then looking towards the next draft of the executive order that will continue to achieve the goal of protecting the American people.

So that's where we are. That's what the order says. And then so I think we continue to feel confident that that's -- but it was crafted in a way that was very clear about the countries, and was not focused on anything else but the vetting requirements that we have to make sure that we know who's coming into this country and that they're here not to do us any harm.

Q But when talking about fulfilling his promises, can you explain why he decided to back down from that one? Because I know you differentiated this from that promise.

MR. SPICER: I think he's made it very clear, Noah, from the beginning that this was a country-focused issue, a safety-focused issue, and that's why he issued it. I don't see anything other than that with reference to that.

Q Hi. The Oscars are Sunday night. Will the President be watching? If there's a Meryl Streep kind of moment, how do you think he'll react? And why -- if this has happened at other awards ceremonies, why do you think this happens?

MR. SPICER: Why do I think what happens? (Laughter.)

Q Actresses and actors like Meryl Streep.

MR. SPICER: I have no idea. It's a free country. I think Hollywood is known for being rather far to the left in its opinions. And I've got to be honest with you, I think the President will be hosting the Governors Ball that night. Mrs. Trump looks forward to putting on a phenomenal event, and the First Lady has put a lot of time into this event that's going to occur in welcoming our nation's governors to the Capitol. And I have a feeling that that's where the President and the First Lady are going to be focused on on Sunday night, and so we'll go from there.

Q Sean, the President is going to have a big audience next Tuesday in the joint address to Congress. Does he have a set of goals in mind for the speech? And do you think we're going to see some specific policy rollouts as part of that speech?

MR. SPICER: I think that the speech is going to focus -- I mentioned this yesterday -- I think it's going to talk -- remind the American people what he's done already, and make sure that he explains to them not just because of a sense of accomplishment in moving this country forward, but because I think it's important for the American people to know that he was an agent of change, he came here to get things done, and he didn't waste any time.

He's committed to keeping his word. And then I think he's going to lay out his vision and talk about things like education and healthcare and infrastructure, the problems that we face as a country, the violence in some of our inner cities, but also some of the solutions that we can act on and some of the partnerships that we can create. It's obviously still a work in progress.

But I think it's going to look forward to where he wants to take this country and talk about working with Congress and other leaders throughout the country to get things done. But I think in the drafts that I've seen so far, it is going to be a very strong blueprint of where he wants to take this country.

In the past, I think a lot of presidents -- or some presidents, rather, have gotten into very detailed specifics. I think you're going to see him try to talk about policies in a broad sense of where he wants to take this country and what defining success is, what that goal means. But it's still a work in progress, and hopefully towards the end of the week --

Q Is the tone going to be optimistic, sunny?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I think this is an opportunity for him to lay out a very positive vision for the nation and to really let America know where we can go and how we can get there, and the potential that we have as a nation.

Anita.

Q Just piggybacking on that, and then I have another question. Will he -- I know past presidents, including President Obama, immediately hit the road after -- I know this isn't a State of the Union, but something like a State of the Union address to sell policies. And since you're saying it's more of a vision, does he anticipate doing -- going out --

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I think there will be some travel. I don't want to -- that's evolving right now. There's a lot of things that we're trying to look at. And I think as we look at the speech and some of the objectives and goals and vision that he's sharing, talk to him about potential places to go to highlight that. But I think you're going to see a fair amount of visits in the next few weeks to highlight some of the places that he wants to take them.

Q And then the other thing was, I've seen -- some members of Congress were here last week. There's the legislative meeting today. It feels as if we haven't seen as many executive actions -- or executive orders. I know we have the one -- vetting one coming out this week. Are we in a different phase now that he's sort of done the executive orders that he wants to do --

MR. SPICER: No.

Q -- and we're going to legislation?

MR. SPICER: We have several that are in the pipeline. And part of it is just -- these days are focused with these meetings and getting things done and trying to plan ahead. And so as we see fit and as the implementation process of a lot of these goes through the process, we'll have future -- we'll have plenty more. But --

Q It does seem that there's more legislative emphasis right now.

MR. SPICER: Well, it's both. And I think part of this is as we work through Congress, Anita, these are big things, right? We're talking about fundamental tax reform -- something that hasn't happened in our nation since 1986. The repeal and replacement of Obamacare, which was mammoth.

And I think part of this is that those things take time. He's got a joint address on Tuesday. There's a lot of things that are happening, and therefore we need to kind of make sure that we appropriately use the schedule. But I can assure you that if you've missed executive orders, you're going to see a bunch --

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. SPICER: (Laughter.) I know. I just want to make sure you know.

Jonathan Karl.

Q I want to ask you about the town halls, and we're hearing about Obamacare. The President referred to "so-called angry crowds" at these town halls. Is he suggesting this is manufactured anger, that this is not real anger and real concern?

MR. SPICER: Thanks. I think there's a hybrid there. I think some people are clearly upset. But there is a bit of professional protestor, manufactured base in there. But obviously there are people that are upset. But I also think that when you look at some of these districts and some of these things, that it is not a representation of a member's district or -- it is a loud group, small group of people disrupting something, in many cases, for media attention. No offense.

It's just -- I think that necessarily -- just because they're loud doesn't necessarily mean that there are many. And I think in a lot of cases that's what you're seeing.

Q Does the President doubt that there is real anger --

MR. SPICER: No, I just said that.

Q -- and real concern out there beyond just a few loud agitators, that there's real concern that people may lose their healthcare?

MR. SPICER: But see, I think that that's a false narrative. And I don't -- the President has been very clear. Look, you have to look at what our healthcare system is right now. In so many counties around our nation, we've gone down to one provider. That's not choice. That's not access.

And then they're going in a lot of cases and they're saying, we're not taking Medicaid, we're not taking TRICARE, we're not taking the insurance you used to have; the doctor that you used to have isn't participating anymore. And, oh, by the way, states like Arizona, you've got over 100 percent increase in premiums -- 112 [percent] I think was the number there. In many states, it's double, triple -- double-digit.

And I think that the idea that we have to remember is that the American people got sold the Affordable Care Act -- it's neither affordable or accessible. They're losing their coverage and premiums are spiking. And so if people are truly worried about losing their coverage, they should be applauding the President's action for wanting to make sure that we put a system in place that does what they were supposed to have been promised a while back.



And I think that's -- that's what I think is missing from this dialogue. I've seen some folks that were protesting in some of these things saying, I lost -- I'm on Obamacare, I'm going to lose my thing. And when they were asked how old they were, they were, oh, I'm 71, 72. Well, they're not on Obamacare. -- they're on Medicaid.

Q So you think you're making it up?

MR. SPICER: No, not they're making it up. But what I'm getting at it is I think that there is a lot of blurring of the facts. And the reality is that some people aren't on Obamacare. They're on an employer-based system. They're on Medicaid. They're receiving their benefits through Medicare because of their age. And so they're in -- nothing. They have no problems.

But I think in other cases, people are now being told that the plan that they're on is unsustainable; that these carriers throughout the country -- I mean, you just look at them, over and over again pulling out of the exchanges. The reality is, is that they are losing their healthcare, but they're losing it under Obamacare because the exchanges are collapsing on themselves. Carriers are pulling out. Premiums are going up. And access is going down.

So the President's plan is actually going to do exactly what they were promised eight years ago and didn't get. So for those who are worried, the answer is: Help is on the way.

Q But what is the plan? We haven't seen what he's going to replace it with.

MR. SPICER: First, as the President made clear, we're going to have that out in the next couple weeks. He's working on it. But the goal, Jonathan, is this got jammed through a Democratic Congress, and then they told us you could read it after we get it passed. So taking our time, getting this right to achieve the goals that we set forth is probably the right thing to do, considering the experience that we had the last time.

Hallie.

Q Sean, two questions for you. The issue of transgender bathrooms wasn't one we heard a lot about from the President during the campaign. He said at one point, Caitlyn Jenner could use whichever bathroom she wanted to at Trump Tower. So why is this now a priority for the administration 40 days into office?

MR. SPICER: It's not a priority. I think there's a case --

Q But It's one of the first things --

MR. SPICER: But let me answer the question. It's not a priority. There is a case pending in the Supreme Court in which we have to decide whether or not to continue to issue guidance to the Court. It's dictated by that.



The Obama administration had issued joint guidance from the Department of Education and the Department of Justice. We now have to decide whether or not this administration wants to continue that track that they were on. It's plain and simple. If we don't -- but there are problems, both in the legal and process way, in which that guidance was issued. And so it's incumbent upon us to actually follow the law and to recognize that Title IX never talked about this. It was enacted in 1972. There was no discussion of this back then. And to assume certain elements of the law were thought of back then with respect to this would be completely preposterous.

Q And to be clear, Secretary DeVos is onboard with this?

MR. SPICER: Yes, 100 percent. Thank you.

Q Sean, that was actually a clarification. The second question is on Mexico. The Secretary of State's trip that is tonight along with Secretary Kelly, obviously there have been tensions, right, between the Mexican President and President Trump. Is this a clean-up job for the Secretary of State?

MR. SPICER: No. I think that President Peña Nieto and President Trump spoke -- again, the foreign ministers had several contacts with our staff. I would argue that we have a very healthy and robust relationship with the Mexican government and Mexican officials, and I think they would echo that same sentiment. President Peña Nieto has echoed that as well.

But I think the relationship with Mexico is phenomenal right now, and I think there's an unbelievable and robust dialogue between our two nations.

Margaret, and then I'll get you.

Q On Syria, General Votel indicated today that the U.S. needs to take a larger share of the burden and perhaps send troops to Syria. Has the President discussed this with his national security team? And when does he --

MR. SPICER: I'm going to refer you back to DOD on that. I would just argue that I think that you've seen the President talk about safe harbors in Syria with several foreign leaders who have shared his --

Q Safe havens.

MR. SPICER: Safe havens, thank you. And that is an area at the top of the President's foreign policy agenda that he has continued to talk to leaders, especially in the Middle east, about, trying to make sure that we deal with that issue in that area right now. But I'm not going to get ahead of the DOD on this. And then when they have recommendations, they'll make them forward to us.

Q Is there an NSC -- has the President spoken to --

MR. SPICER: Look, I will -- if I have an update, I'll give it to you tomorrow.

Go ahead.

Q President Trump and the Canadian Prime Minister launched the U.S. and Canada Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs. Can you talk a little bit about how the council is growing and transpiring? What's the status of it?

MR. SPICER: I think staff is beginning to implement the President's agenda. It occurred, what, six, seven days ago. And so it's starting to work through the process and we'll have further updates as it goes forward. But I know that he continues to be in touch with Prime Minister Trudeau, and our staff continues to work on the back end to make this happen.

Zeke.

Q Thanks, Sean. I have two questions for you. One, earlier in your conversation with Jon, does the White House not have confidence in its Cabinet Secretaries if it's looking sort of over their shoulders? Does the White House not -- does the President not trust his Cabinet Secretaries, appointees and agency administrators to staff -- to find people who agree with the President's agenda?

MR. SPICER: No, not at all. I think there's a big difference. The President named these folks because they're unbelievably qualified individuals. Part of it, though, is that you're staffing major departments and I think we've got somewhere in the area of 5,000 positions to fill. And when you're filtering through a good number of people, I don't even think the Secretaries, at some degree, depending on the department, have a full background on some of these individuals.

And so as they get pumped through the pipeline, there are questions. And, again, there are areas that are of key priority to the President that he campaigned on. And I think that when he wants to make sure that certain of those individuals who are going to be overseeing key priorities that he promised the American people have somebody who is not only qualified but agrees with and shares the President's vision to fix whatever problem that was or fulfill whatever vision that he articulated.

But I think that that -- I mean, it would almost be malpractice not to do that. To allow people to fill a job, a political appointee job, who don't share the vision and agenda of the President of the United States would almost be -- I mean, it would be silly on its face to suggest this.

I don't think there's any administration in past history that would literally, willingly, take on somebody who was so blatantly opposed or spoke out specifically against what the

President was seeking to do, and then have them fulfill a job to carry out that mission. It just -- it doesn't seem as though it makes any sense.

Yes.

Q Second thing real quick. We're coming up on a week away from the deadline the President ordered for his review of the counter-ISIS strategy. What's the status of that review? The President tweeted over the weekend that he was meeting with a bunch of generals.

MR. SPICER: Yes.

Q Is that regarding that review?

MR. SPICER: I think General Dunford and Secretary Mattis have begun providing him updates on that. I know that the new National Security Advisor is getting brought into that process and continuing to do updates, so we'll have further updates. But the team has been working on it since the President issued the guidance.

Yes.

Q As far as the second executive order is concerned, what is the White House doing differently in terms of consulting with various departments to make certain that this second executive order passes constitutional scrutiny?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think we've done a few things. One is, I think we've been very clear about understanding what the court said in trying to tailor that specifically while achieving the same goals of keeping America safe and ensuring that people don't come into this country that seek to do us harm. That's number one.

Number two is, we continue -- and that order is basically completed. I think what we're now doing is working with the various agencies and departments to make sure that the implementation of that is done in an extremely smooth way. So we have looked at it from both a process standpoint, as well as a legal standpoint. And I think it's achieving the goals.

But again, I would also mention that, on the merits, I believe that the first order did just that. It was written in a way -- and I think ultimately we will continue to prevail on that -- because it is written in a way that is clear and consistent with U.S. code and the authority that the President has to protect the nation.

Katie.

Q Sean --

Q No matter what happens, as it relates to the second executive order, it's almost likely to face a legal challenge.

MR. SPICER: Sure.

Q Are you concerned that the President's prior remarks as it relates to the judiciary is going to allow him to get a fair hearing by the judicial branch as it relates to the second executive order?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, absolutely. I think that --

Q Why do you say that?

MR. SPICER: Because I think that you've seen it happen in the Massachusetts case. I mean, at the end of the day, you look at the law and what the order does. And I think, again, you may have -- in the case of the 9th Circuit, we continue to disagree with that. I think the President has pointed out you don't have to be that high up in grade school to recognize what the code says, what the authority that is granted to him, and then what the order does.

I think the things that they brought out in that order -- in one of the cases, they suggested there have been no people that have entered within the seven countries. And a quick cursory look found upwards of close to 20 people that had come in. So some of the basis for which they decided the case on doesn't actually pass muster. And I think any other judge or judges that look at that order or the one that will be put forward will come to the same conclusion.

Katie.

Q Sean, I wanted to ask about the President's budget priorities. What specifically is the President increasing spending on? Where is he decreasing spending? And how much money specifically is he asking for the 5,000 new Border Patrol agents he's asked for?

MR. SPICER: So I'm going to refer you back to Margaret's question, and then we'll have something in mid-March as we put that out. But I'm not going to get ahead of Director Mulvaney.

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. SPICER: No, I mean, it's not -- look, he just had a meeting where he's continued to work that out. They're providing him back-and-forth. That's the idea of crafting this budget. And until we put it out on paper, I don't want to get ahead of --

Q Sean, can I follow up on Mexico?

MR. SPICER: Yes.

Q Thank you very much. Back to Mexico -- Videgaray and many officials have said this morning that they're not going to accept the directives that were put out by the White House and by DHS yesterday, and they may not take anyone that's not a Mexican immigrant. What are you guys doing to do with those people that Mexico will not accept?

MR. SPICER: I think Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Kelly are going to have a great discussion down there, and to walk through the implementation of the executive order. But I feel very confident that any country who has a citizen that comes into this country, and that we send back, we'll make sure that they comply with this.

David.

Q Two questions about immigration. One, the President has talked a number of times about millions of illegal immigrants casting votes during the election, in his mind. You guys have promised to look into that. It seems like there was no mention of that in any of these directives, to look for these immigrants. Does the President still believe this is a national security problem?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, and Vice President Pence will lead a task force on this.

Q Where would we stand on that, though?

MR. SPICER: He named a task force, and the Vice President is starting to gather names and individuals to be part of it.

Q On the other question I had about the DACA program, yesterday you suggested, well, we have to go after hardened criminals and major national security threats first. But during the campaign, the President talked about DACA as being an unconstitutional executive amnesty. Does he still think it was an unconstitutional use of President Obama's powers? And if so, does he plan --

MR. SPICER: I think -- yeah, I think -- and I said this yesterday: The President is very clear about his priorities with respect to immigration. Yesterday was focused on going after people who are a concern -- a public safety concern. And we're going to walk through this very --

Q -- unconstitutional?

MR. SPICER: We will get back to you on that. Right now the focus is on keeping the country safe and making sure that we walk through.

Shane.

Q I want to ask on immigration, as well. Given all of the push on deporting illegal immigrants, I wanted to see if this White House and President Trump have any interest in curtailing legal immigration going forward.

MR. SPICER: Again, we got to look at this from a priority level. Right now there's millions of people in this country that are in the country illegally. I think the focus continues to be that 800,000 or 900,000 that have already had an order to have them removed and get them processed through in a way that continues to keep America safe.

Legal immigration, obviously, is a completely separate subject, and that includes visa reform and all that other stuff. The President has talked about that. He's talked about it with business leaders -- H-1B visas, et cetera. You're going to see more of that coming. But I think there is a prioritization of how we deal with immigration -- both illegal and then legal. And we'll have more on that later.

I got to run. Thank you, guys, very much. We'll see you tomorrow. Take care.

END

1:30 P.M. EST



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### FIRST 100 DAYS

## Miller: New order will be responsive to the judicial ruling; Rep. Ron DeSantis: Congress has gotten off to a slow start

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MARTHA MCCALLUM, FOX NEWS ANCHOR: Breaking tonight, we are live in Jacksonville, Florida for a special immigration town hall, on the same day that President Trump's Department of Homeland Security issued two very important memos designed to crack down on illegal immigrants on our southern border. Welcome to day 33 everybody of "The First 100." I'm Martha MacCallum and this was President Trump just days here in Jacksonville before the election.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DONALD TRUMP, U.S. PRESIDENT: The border crisis is the worst it's ever been. It's a national emergency. They get caught again, they go to jail for five years, guess what's going to happen? They're not coming back, folks. Now, our people don't want to do it. Our weak, weak politicians don't want to do it.

A Trump administration will cancel all federal funding to sanctuary cities. We will end illegal immigration. We are going to stop drugs from pouring into your communities and poisoning our youths and everybody else. And we will deport all criminal aliens, quickly from our country.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MCCALLUM: States like Florida, cities like Jacksonville, part of a movement behind the president's victory, drawn to him by a host of issues, not the least of which was talk like that just days before the November election when, as you remember, nobody thought he was going to win, but those ideas resonated in a big way and we are here tonight to speak to people who helped to elect Mr. Trump and we'll ask them how they think it's going so far in the first 100 days and their expectations that were set on immigration policy, its impact on jobs, on safety, on terrorism, and on the culture of the communities that we all live in across this country.

The November exit polling from Florida helps to tell the story of why we are here tonight. Among 10 percent who said immigration was the most important issue for them on Election Day, 69 percent of those voted for Donald Trump. Among the 23 percent who said that most important issue to them was illegal immigrants working in the U.S. have to be deported to their home country, 92 percent of those individuals voted for Donald Trump. We're going to get to all of that in moments

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with a town hall meeting that includes lawmakers, law enforcement, and lots of average voters who've gathered here tonight to have their voices heard.

But, first, we go to the White House and Senior Advisor to the President, Stephen Miller, who helped to craft the president's controversial executive order calling for more rigorous vetting of immigrants from seven Middle Eastern countries. Mr. Miller, welcome. Good to have you here tonight.

STEPHEN MILLER, ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT: Hey, it's great to be here. Thank you.

MCCALLUM: So, everybody is anticipating the next rollout of the next executive order, which is supposed to clarify some of the issues that were perhaps wrong with the first one and then got too caught up in the courts. So how is it going to be different this time?

MILLER: Well, nothing was wrong with the first executive order. However, there was a flawed judicial ruling that was erroneous. The president recently read to the statute from the Immigration and Nationality Act, which clearly states, he has the power as president to impose any restrictions he deems necessary when it's in the national interest.

However, because of the exigency of the situation and the need to protect our country, and to protect our citizens, the president is going to be issuing a new executive action based off of the judicial ruling, flawed though it may be, to protect our country and to keep our people safe, and that is going to be coming very soon.

MCCALLUM: All right. (Inaudible) is 18-year-old, but he wants to know specifically how the second-order is going to be different.

MILLER: Well, one of the big differences that you're going to see in the executive order is that it's going to be responsive to the judicial ruling, which didn't exist previously. And so these are mostly minor technical differences. Fundamentally, you're still going to have the same basic policy outcome for the country, but you're going to be responsive to a lot of **very technical** issues that were brought up by the court and those will be addressed. But in terms of protecting the country, those basic policies are still going to be in effect.

I want to try and broaden the conversation here and not get lost in all this technical minutia. Here's the reality. The United States admits more people than any other country on the face of the earth. We've got a serious problem in our country of terrorism, radicalization, and serious problems of people joining ISIS, joining terror groups, joining Al-Qaeda, and committing or attempting to commit acts of crime and terror against our nation. We have seen a huge synapses between this --

MCCALLUM: Let me jump in on you there for a moment.

MILLER: Yeah.

MCCALLUM: Let me note that -- because here's one of the problems. Now, I know that you think the order was fine the way it was issued initially. But courts disagree. In fact, 48 courts took issued with it and that's why it's halted right now as a result of that process that happens in this country.

So, now you're about to issue another order and one of the things that would need to be addressed, it sounds like, is proving that the seven countries that you have targeted are indeed the right ones to target and that you have merit and reason for targeting those specific ones, rather than, let say, Saudi Arabia, right?

MILLER: Well, the reality is these seven countries were designated by President Obama and by Congress in 2015 and 2016. The reality is that the seven countries -- look at Yemen, look at Libya, look Syria, look at the conditions in these countries. This is an assessment based on the threat that these countries pose today and going into the future. We've had dozens and dozens of terrorism cases from these seven countries, case after case after case.

But more fundamentally, it's the position of our intelligence community that these countries today pose a threat to our country moving forward and the president is acting decisively to protect our country from these threats. And the rulings from those courts were flawed, erroneous, and false. The president's actions were clearly legal and constitutional and consistent with the long-standing traditions of presidents in the past to exercise the authority in the Immigration and Nationality Act to suspend immigration when it poses a threat to our security. And that's what the president will do. In the next few days, we will roll out the details of what that action will be.

MCCALLUM: And we understand -- I'm sorry. I think we have a little bit of a delay, so I don't mean to be stepping on you. But I do understand that that's your perspective and that's the White House's argument and we'll see how that next (inaudible).

One more question to you from one of our viewers for tonight if you will. Jack Capra who is a veteran in our audience this evening, says how far is the administration willing to go to secure the southern border? Will the administration deploy the U.S. military to do so?

MILLER: Well, right now we have 20,000 fantastic border patrol agents who are doing a great job. But, Martha, I really want to try and broaden this conversation and get to the core of the issues here.

Whether we're talking about the new executive action and in the next few days we will be able to share the details what that will be and how it's responsive to the court's ruling. Whether we're talking about the southern border, whether we're talking about our guest worker programs, here's the core issue. It is the job of the president and the job of our government to protect the hard-working people of this country, to protect their jobs, to protect their wages, to protect their communities, to keep them safe from terrorism, and crime, and drugs, and wage depression.

Uncontrolled migration over many years has undermined wages, working prospects for people of all backgrounds, and all walks of life and it's made us less safe. Proper controls will raise wages, improve employment, help migrant workers enter the middle-class who are already living here, and keep us safe from threats of terror. And this president, and this administration is fully committed to doing what is necessary, lawful, just, decent, and right, to take care of and to defend hard-working, patriotic citizens and their communities.

MCCALLUM: All right. Well, we look very much forward to that second executive order and we'll watch the path and see if it makes it through the courts and that, you know, the executive branch, the judicial branch, can find their way to put this together. Thank you very much, Stephen Miller, for joining us from the White House tonight.

MILLER: Thank you. I really appreciate it. Thanks.

MCCALLUM: Good to have you with us. Thank you.

So let's bring in Jacksonville native and Florida congressman Ron DeSantis who is one of the first to stand by President Trump's original order. Good to have you here tonight, Congressman.

REP. RON DESANTIS, R-FLORIDA: Thanks for coming down to Florida.

MCCALLUM: It's great to be here. Thank you for having us. So, one of the interesting comments from General Kelly when he spoke about this the other day was that, you know, he wanted the second executive order to take place in a way that we would not find people backed up in our airports. So he was acknowledging that there was some issue in this rollout. What are your thoughts on that?

DESANTIS: Well, I think that's right. I mean, you have examples of, like a grandmother who is a green card holder coming back from one of these countries, that's not where the threat is. The threats are with people who are unvetted. These are countries that are either state sponsors of terrorism, or overrun in large degree by terrorist groups. And if you look-- since 9/11, the biggest change in the terrorist threat has been how much it's expanded in different countries. You have Somalia, other parts of Africa --

MCCALLUM: So you think more than those seven should be on the list?

DESANTIS: Well, I think that -- if you read the executive order, that's a 90-day period. They are also going to be talking with other countries. So people mentioned Saudi Arabia, so maybe Saudi Arabia doesn't have procedures that were -- that are acceptable but -- so maybe there will be changes there. But I think we have to err on the side of caution. And my view is we have immigration system, but that immigration system shouldn't make the American people assume risk for their safety by us bringing in people we don't know.

MCCALLUM: Let's bring in some of our great audience that we have with us tonight. Let me start by going to Jack Capra, who is with us tonight. You know, you listened to this conversation, Jack, and you're a veteran, so we thank you for your service.

JACK CAPRA, WOUNDED VETERAN AND FLORIDA RESIDENT: Thank you. I actually used to work with Congressman. Yeah.

(CROSSTALK)

MCCALLUM: -- so you're paying attention.

CAPRA: Yeah. I used to work with the congressman in Guantanamo few years ago. We both had duty there, so.

MCCALLUM: Well, welcome. It's great to have the two of you here together tonight and good to talk to you about these serious issues. You listen to Stephen Miller from the White House. What did you think about what he had to say?

CAPRA: Well, I think his main argument was right on point and I agree with that. I think this is, you know, securing our borders as a national security issue. It's not just -- of course, it's also about economics, but it is a national security issue and it's the federal government's job to keep our people safe, keep our citizens safe from external and internal threats. And so I think immigration is a big contributor to that.

MCCALLUM: Yeah. You know, obviously, the rollout of it didn't go quite as planned. You know, it brings me sort of a general question that I want to put to all of you as we get going tonight. As you look at so far the first 100 days, we're on day 33 right now. So I'm going to ask you to raise your hand for three different answers, OK.

So the first one would be, so far, are you, A -- no, you don't raise your hand yet because I want you to know all the options. You can either be, A, thrilled. I'm really happy with how it's going. Or, B, you know, it's OK, but I think there's room for improvement. And, C, I am a little disappointed. OK.

So raise your hand if you would say that you are thrilled with how it's going so far. Wow, that's a lot of folks. Look at that. OK, what about choice B, which is I'm glad, but, you know, I'd like to see a little bit of improvement around the edges. OK. So how many of you are disappointed, not happy with how it is going so far? A couple up here, one in the back there, one back there. OK, all right. We're going to get around to you and hear some of your reasons for all of that. You know, what do you think about that?

DESANTIS: Well, look, I think that Congress is --

MCCALLUM: Which category do you fit in, first of all?

DESANTIS: Well, I think Congress has gotten off to a slow start.

MCCALLUM: Yeah.

DESANTIS: I think the president has done much better than we have. He's following through with what he said he would do and we are kind of --

MCCALLUM: Wow.

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DESANTIS: We in the Congress were kind of getting to what we said we do, but we haven't quite gotten of it. I think we will, but I think they've done a better start. It's also important to say, they're not confirming his nominees. He doesn't have guy -- he's got like a fraction of a government in place because the Democrats in the Senate are basically trying to stall as many people as possible.

MCCALLUM: So, let me go to somebody over here. Kris Koproski, who is the mother of three and you think that we need to put a pause on emigration. So, are you -- how do you feel about the president so far and do you think Congress -- do you agree with Congressman DeSantis that they're not pulling their weight?

KRIS KOPROSKI, FLORIDA RESIDENT: I am thrilled with what President Trump is doing. Congress, you know, they need to get on board and specifically, the Democrats. He needs his cabinet, his full cabinet. And they're just seemed to be stopping him at every turn. There's got to be a discussion open. They've got to be willing to give a little bit.

MCCALLUM: So you're nodding your head there. Who -- is anybody in particular in Congress that you're, you know, disappointed in so far? And, you know, would you like to give them a message tonight?

CLAIRE FRANK, FLORIDA RESIDENT: How much time do you have?

MCCALLUM: I got about 48 minutes. Go ahead.

FRANK: I would say we finally have someone in office who is doing something probably not even -- the last president I can think has done anything like this was Abraham Lincoln, who is trying to reunite the country. And that's what we voted for him to do. And that's what he is doing.

Congress isn't getting behind us. I say, term limits. That way you can clean house, just like he's doing draining the swamp. There's too many in there right now that, you know, are not doing their job. Stop voting -- McCain is a pain.

DESANTIS: I am the leader of the term limits movement in the House, so we do need to do that.

MCCALLUM: All right. So you're on your third term. So how many terms should he get? How many terms?

DESANTIS: Well, our amendment is three terms in the House and two terms in the Senate.

MCCALLUM: OK.

DESANTIS: The same on Trump endorsed during the campaign. So, let's get a vote and let see what we can do.

MCCALLUM: All right. We're just getting rolling here. Great job opening this conversation up here. So, coming to the next moment, just today, the Trump administration ordered more border agents, 5,000 more, also, 10,000 more ICE agents and plans to move ahead with the controversial wall plan on our southern border, so the fallout and the debate from the floor here coming up next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

MCCALLUM: Breaking tonight, just hours before the doors opened on our town hall meeting here in Jacksonville, Florida, the Department of Homeland Security announced the brand-new priorities when it comes to their plan to deport illegal immigrants.

The two memos from DHS Secretary John Kelly today say impart that his agency is going to use public safety to guide their decisions, while the White House made a point of saying that there will be no longer special exceptions to the rules. Watch.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SEAN SPICER, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: For so long, the people at ICE and CBP had their handcuffed behind them when they were going to deal with the mission of their job. The last administration had so many carve outs for who could be and who couldn't be adjudicated that it made it very difficult for the customs and enforcement people to do their job and enforce the laws of this country. But, right now, what we've done is to make sure that they have the ability and the guidance and the resources to do what they -- what their mission is. And that's it, plain and simple.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MCCALLUM: Joining me now, Sarah Saldana. She was the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, better known as ICE, director under President Obama. And Francisco Hernandez is an Immigration Attorney. Welcome. It's great to have both of you with us tonight.

SARAH SALDANA, FORMER ICE DIRECTOR, 2014-2017: Thank you.

FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ, IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY: Thank you for having me.

MCCALLUM: Sarah, he was calling you out a bit there.

SALDANA: Yes. I guess he was. But let me tell you something that is maybe not clearly known. I have been a law enforcement officer. I was a prosecutor in Dallas. I was the United States Attorney in Dallas. And I think -- significantly, I think that's one of the reasons that I was selected to be the director of ICE, because I believe in law enforcement. I believe in rational law enforcement. So, that is my focus while I was director and I think we went about it in a good way, given the fact that we had resources that were not unlimited.

MCCALLUM: All right. So, he's -- Sean Spicer was saying that under your direction and others, border enforcement officials under the Obama administration that people weren't allowed to do their jobs. That the agents felt that they were handcuffed, that they couldn't deport, that they couldn't detain to the extent that they wanted to. Is that fair?

SALDANA: The law is the law. So, with respect to detention and all of those things, we were guided by the law. We were not guided by people's emotions or feelings or thoughts. We were guided by the law. We had priorities, just like this executive order has priorities. We didn't exempt people. I guess one could look at it that way, but one could say that about the executive order, as well.

We focused on serious criminals. And, in fact, our numbers went substantially up with respect to the portion of people that we were removing or putting in removal proceedings, being convicted criminals or people who are not in the country legally and there's a reason to remove them. Again, I am weighing as a manager, resources versus the threat to public safety.

MCCALLUM: So when you say resources, would you love to have had the 10,000 additional agents that John Kelly is now going to get?

SALDANA: It would have been -- we certainly could have responded to Congressman DeSantis, wherever he is, when he drove me on the hill about why we weren't departing more people. It certainly would have helped in that regard.

The important thing to me is not volume. Ask any law enforcement officer, the important thing to me is substance. Are we protecting the American public by focusing on people who have no business being here, committing additional crimes, and working against the interest of the American people?

MCCALLUM: Francisco, today, you know, just going through the headlines and looking at different web sites, you know, the administration -- Trump administration cracks down. Illegal immigrants are scared. They're nervous about what they're hearing today and yet he also said that DACA would stay in place. That children who came here with their parents at a young age would not be affected by this. So what's your reaction to these two memos today?

HERNANDEZ: Well, first of all, I can't argue with Ms. Saldana on qualifications. I feel like a thorn between two roses, OK.

But, quite frankly, President Trump has written a blank check that he can't cash. Just like the congressman said, he's

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going to have to get the money from somewhere. You can't just say we're going to hire 20,000 agents (inaudible) Ms. Saldana. You got to have the people.

No one is going to argue about whether you should deport people that commit repeated felonies, you're just barking up the wrong tree. But quite frankly, you've got to do something to get that money and we don't have the money. So we do have to focus, as Director Saldana said on the important things.

The deferred actions, yes, dreamers, Gob bless. Let's go and give them a green card, something to work towards, something to earn that were brought into no fault of their own, no one can argue about that. So they're in limbo, but you know what, we have --

MCCALLUM: But he didn't pay them about (ph). He said that's off the table.

HERNANDEZ: That's off the table --

MCCALLUM: Unless they have a criminal record.

HERNANDEZ: And the interesting thing is, you know, if President Trump argued that President Obama did not have the executive or constitutional power to issue that executive order, well then, neither does he have the executive. So what's good for the goose is good for the gander. So, that's our fear. If we're going to go with those executive orders for President Trump, we've got to fund them. It costs money.

MCCALLUM: Let's get some questions from our group here. Hatice Iaconangelo. I'm sure I got that wrong. So what do you think about what you're hearing here tonight?

HATICE IANCONANGELO, FLORIDA RESIDENT: I am horrified. I'm horrified. This is not the country I emigrated to. Sure, when I first emigrated 26 years ago --

MCCALLUM: From?

IANCONANGELO: From Germany. I am a native Berliner. I grew up with a wall. I know what the wall does to families. I witnessed people getting shot crossing over the wall. And I see us as a nation going towards that again. It's horrifying. Little by little, we are getting there. Berlin didn't start out just with a wall coming up instantly, the Russians shooting, everybody. It starts gradually. And it gets worse and worse.

I want us to come together as a nation and have compassion for people. Don't just shut yourself off from that what you don't understand, what you don't know. Why don't each one of you who are against immigration may be get to know a refugee? Get to know an immigrant and see where they have come from and what they have gone through in life.

MCCALLUM: All right. Let me get a response from Bill Korach who is -- you're shaking your head pretty hard there, sir. Why?

BILL KORACH, ST. JOHNS COUNTY COP CHAIRMAN: I was in Berlin when the wall was up. And the wall was meant to keep people in, because the communist system was so horrible. This wall is being designed to protect our borders. We're a sovereign nation. We should have sovereign borders. We are a nation of laws. If we don't have the rule of law, we don't have sovereignty.

IANCONANGELO: I am not against protecting the people here, absolutely not. But you don't realize, America is already so safe. This is the safest place I feel on earth. I travel overseas every year. The law enforcement does a great job. The customs office --

MCCALLUM: Let me get an answer from Elvira and then we're going to go, so quickly

ELVIRA SALAZAR, MEGA T.V. ANCHOR: Good to see you. I think the greatness of a nation is measured not by the size of its government, but by how we protect the most vulnerable members of society, and in this case, illegal immigrants.



think that maybe we should take a look at immigration issue in a different way.

We should go to the root of the problem. And the root of the problem is very simple. It's called Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. President Trump has an outstanding opportunity. He is a businessman. He knows how to build coalitions. He knows cultural sensitivities from other countries. He can go to those three countries that are exporting the majority of the people that are knocking on our borders and help them put their house in order.

Then, we could avoid or save the money that we're going to be investing on the 20 million -- \$20 billion that will cost to build a wall along the Mexican border. And we could earmark those \$280 million that we're giving to those three countries. Earmarked that for what Nicaragua did. No one really talks about why Nicaraguans are not coming and knocking on our border, because the -- and I'm not a friend of the Nicaraguan government, but they knew how to do it. And they could help us solve the problem. That's another angle.

MCCALLUM: All right, thank you very much. So, officials in Miami-Dade, Florida got national attention when they decided to stand against becoming a so-called sanctuary city. We will speak to the man behind that very controversial decision here in Florida coming up next.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

MARTHA MACCALLUM, THE FIRST 100 DAYS HOST: So a point of hot contention in the immigration debate involves so-called sanctuary cities scattered throughout the country. These are cities and towns which offer protections to illegal immigrants by limiting cooperation with federal authorities. I want to start with our audience panel, and I'll ask you all a question first which is a broad question in terms of priorities. It goes to what we're talking about earlier. So I will give you three options and I want you to pick the one that you think should be the GOP priority right now, or the government's priority, or for the whole country priority, regardless of your background. So choice number one will be immigration and the wall, choice number two would be tax reform, and choice number three would be Obamacare repeal and replace. So this goes to what we're talking about over here before in terms of what they're doing first. So if you want them to address immigration and the wall first, raise your hand. Maybe a third, maybe less. Tax reform. Maybe half. All right, Obamacare, repeal and replace. So, I'd say, closer to a third of third but I would say tax reform was the winner. So you want tax reform to be a priority for the folks on Capitol Hill. So maybe they're listening to what you're saying here tonight. So, in terms of immigration, I want to bring our guest, Diane Scheriff, and her daughter, Savannah. You were originally from San Francisco, you live in this area now, right?

DIANE SCHERIFF: Right.

MACCALLUM: But you believe that it's not true that the jobs that are being done by illegal immigrants are jobs that Americans don't want to do.

SCHERIFF: Yes and no. I mean, I think when I lived in California, I had a nanny at first that didn't have a green card. I didn't know that. She was a very hard worker. But, there again, I think there are jobs that are open-- that would be open to Americans, that are taken by illegal immigrants. And I just feel strongly that that is a huge deal in our country, especially Florida, since we have such an influx of illegal immigrants.

MACCALLUM: Savannah, what about the issues of sanctuary cities?

SAVANNAH SCHRIFF: Well, you know.

MACCALLUM: Having grown up in San Francisco, you know, I know you lived in a city that is a sanctuary city. Don't be nervous. Particularly understandable, I scared you. Put that mic in front of your face. It's quite all right. I know the feeling.

SCHERIFF: Sanctuary cities, you know, maybe I'll sound like a bad person here, but I'm frustrated that we even have them. Because, I mean, honestly.

(APPLAUSE)

MACCALLUM: That's what Savannah was going to say.

SCHERIFF: It doesn't make sense to me. And the fact that they're growing now, not going away come. And again, I'm a Californian, I live there. But San Francisco, L.A., Oakland, it doesn't make any sense to not work with local law enforcement when it comes to immigrants and criminals.

MACCALLUM: Thank you very much. I'm joined now by the mayor of Miami- Dade, Mayor Gimenez, and Laura Wilkenson. We've spoken before Laura. And Laura has a tough personal story. You lost your son to a person who was here illegally. And I know you have stood next to President Trump many times as he has talked about Angel Moms. So you took a tough stance and said we are not going to be a sanctuary city anymore in Miami. Has there been a backlash against that in your area?

CARLOS GIMENEZ, MAYOR MIAMI-DADE: Yes, there has been. And we have very vocal opposition to what we did. But, you know, what I say to people that tell me that, hey, I really like what you did, I tell them that, you know, I really did a lot less than what you thought I did. And the people that are vocally against it, I say, you know, I did a lot less than what you thought I did. Really, all we did is we labeled a sanctuary city by the Obama administration and the justice department because we were requesting reimbursement from the federal government for detainer requests. And what I did is I said, we know longer need to have that voucher from the federal government saying that they're going to pay us for our costs for detaining these people of interest to immigration. That's all we did. And by doing that, it basically took us off the list of being a sanctuary city. Miami- Dade County has never thought of itself as a sanctuary city. Even when we pass that resolution back in 2014, we didn't think that that would place us as a sanctuary city. So, basically, taking that off, basically now -- and now my.

MACCALLUM: The financial decision.

GIMENEZ: Yes, obviously, because we were being threatened with millions of dollars in federal funding that we need to provide services for the 2.7 million people of Miami-Dade County.

MACCALLUM: Laura, the president said that he is not going -- he is going to respect DACA. How did you feel about that?

LAURA WILKENSON: Well, I believe there is going to be a process no matter how you do it. Somebody is going to be inconvenienced. This law -- I mean, without the immigration laws being enforced, this country has run amok. At any way that he doesn't, there is going to be an inconvenience to people. But, for myself, I think if you're not bearing your child in the ground and turning around and walking away, it is not an inconvenience that you can't deal with.

(APPLAUSE)

MACCALLUM: In terms of your son and your situation, that young man was brought here by his parents.

WILKENSON: Yes. He was a dreamer, brought here when he was ten from Belize. He had been charged with the crime of harassment but not convicted. And then, he murdered Joshua while he was out on bond for that. He should never have gotten a bond at the very least. They're a flight risk. And you don't want to wait until they murder your kid, until you say, OK, time-out, now you are in trouble. It's ridiculous. Nobody gets sanctuary from the law. There is nothing I could do and be given sanctuary from it, and there is no reason for anybody else to have that, as well.

(APPLAUSE)

MACCALLUM: Do you believe that you're getting somewhere with your cause?

WILKENSON: Absolutely, yes. Mr. Trump had said he would put a crime victim in -- a program in place. It's called Voice, I believe. And it's to help victims like myself, the real victims. And this gentleman earlier talked about getting some of the



money, you know, if you can defund sanctuary cities, there comes the money. He can also take the money away from the 325 agencies in this country that help illegal aliens -- I mean, help them navigate the system. There is not one place or one program in place to help myself.

(APPLAUSE)

MACCALLUM: Thank you, Laura. Good to have you both here tonight. So we're coming to you tonight from a state where there are many jobs that go to legal and illegal immigrants. And when we come back, we are going to hear from our audience about the president's pledge to put America first. How do they think that's going? We'll ask them right after this.

(APPLAUSE)

MACCALLUM: So when President Trump campaigned on the slogan of America first, a lot of that message was about bringing jobs back to American workers. But are they prepared to take the low wage jobs taken by illegal and legal immigrants? Joining us now, Javier Palomarez, he's president of the U.S.-Hispanic chamber of commerce, and on President Trump's diversity coalition. Although, he was a Hillary Clinton fan at the beginning, and Cindy Nava, a dreamer and Democratic national committee fellow. Welcome to both of you. Good to have you here today. So, Javier, first of all, you're a Hillary Clinton supporter. What made you change your tune?

JAVIER PALOMAREZ, PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.-HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Well, you know, the reality of it is that -- back then, when we were convinced that our side was going to win, we asked of Donald Trump that he honored the will of the people and that he respect the results of this election. The reality of it is, he won, he is now the 45th president of the United States of America, and I'm going to do everything I can to live up to the exact same thing we asked of him. I'm going to honor the will of the people. I'm going to honor the results of this election.

(APPLAUSE)

PALOMAREZ: And me and my association, a 4.1 million Hispanic-owned firms in this country that contribute over \$668 billion to the American economy are going to do everything we can to help this administration move our country forward. At a time that I think we need to collaborate to move in the right direction.

MACCALLUM: Cindy, you're a dreamer.

CINDY NAVA, DREAMER: I am.

MACCALLUM: So, what do you think about what happened today, and the exemption for DACA children, like yourself? And do you believe that there is -- you're talking about common ground. Is there common ground? And do you think that this administration wants to find it? And do you think the resisters and the never Trumpers also want to?

NAVA: You know, Martha, I really think that this is a first step towards what really needs to happen, which is to address comprehensive immigration reform. And this is truly surprising I think for many of us that President Trump decided to keep DACA intact. And that's great and that's good. But, right now, there's a lot to fear out in the communities. There's actually some dreamers that have been targeted. And we have families. So what's happening to our families, you know, that's always a concern. So just because we may be feeling a little bit sick here, does not mean that the community is throughout the country are. And DACA comes with many benefits such as a ban on parole, which many people are not familiar with. But advance parole is something that we can request through humanitarian clause, educational, or other -- you know, there's three clauses, and I was able to get that because my grandmother was ill in Mexico, and she was dying. And I was able to spend the five last days of her life with her.

MACCALLUM: I want to get a couple of our friends up here. And, again, Earline Shipper, so she's talking about families and keeping people together, what do you say?

EARLINE SHIPPER, FLORIDA RESIDENT: I think it's a wonderful idea that we keep families together. I'm happy that this particular decision was made. But I still think that immigration is a very serious situation that has to be controlled and we

have to take care of illegals coming into the country that are going to cause harm and we should send them back.

MACCALLUM: Eric, what do you think?

(APPLAUSE)

ERIC WEST, FLORIDA RESIDENT: The amount of people that have come into the country that are taking welfare and other government benefits is way too much. We don't need any more welfare recipients in this country. We need people that are going to bring jobs and doctors and things to this country to help our economy. When 91 percent of the Syrian refugees or refugees that comes to this country get welfare, something is wrong. We're committing financial suicide.

(APPLAUSE)

MACCALLUM: Pablo Manriquez.

PABLO MANRIQUEZ, FORMER DNC OFFICIAL: Well, I think the thing to keep in mind here is that Donald Trump did inherit a mess when it comes to immigration. I was one of the people who raised my hand earlier that I am disgusted with how this presidency is going. But I was disgusted with how President Obama's presidency went on this topic, as well. I knocked on thousands of Hispanic doors in particular in 2008, telling people that President Obama was going to offer -- Senator Obama at the time was going to offer them some form of relief. He betrayed us. He betrayed us to the tune of 2.8 million deportations. And the reality is that the communities that Cindy is talking about right now do live in fear. And that fear keeps them from working with the police. For example, if a wife is being battered and she is worried that by going to the police she is going to be detained for her immigration status, that's just going to create more battered women. So.

(BOOS)

MANRIQUEZ: It's true. It's true. I think the point here is that immigrants have already been betrayed by one presidency. And what Donald Trump did today by offering DACA kids hope was a good thing, a very good thing. And I applaud him for it.

MACCALLUM: I mean, the people that they're targeting are either criminals or they have final deportation orders, which means that they were notified sometimes ago. And they have been told for quite some time in many cases. They have left and come back against those orders. So those are the people who are being targeted first by the directive that we've got today. So we've got more to come back to after this quick break. So stay with us. But coming up, how do those who have come to America from abroad feel about the moves that have been taken by this administration? We're going to talk to two people from this community touched personally by this issue when we come back. Stay with us live in Jacksonville, Florida.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

MACCALLUM: So as we wait, President Trump's revised order calling for more vigorous vetting of immigrants from seven Middle Eastern countries. We wanted to talk to a couple of local residents in the Jacksonville area for whom this is a large issue, very near and dear to their hearts. Joanne Farhire is an immigration attorney and legal immigrants and now a citizen of the United States. And Hajdary Mohammad is a recent immigrant to Jacksonville from Afghanistan. He spent nine years helping our U.S. troops in his home country. And we thank you for that.

(APPLAUSE)

MACCALLUM: That is a special category of people that I know you -- I would assume feel in the initial order really got short shrift. Tell me.

HAJDARY MOHAMMAD, REFUGEE FROM AFGHANISTAN: What was the.

MACCALLUM: In terms of people who helped our troops, like you did. In the initial executive order, they were very concerned about their families that they wouldn't be able to get the men, and feel that you have given a great deal to this country, right?

MOHAMMAD: Yeah. Actually, I worked like nine years with the U.S. army in Afghanistan. So like four years for the U.S. army, and five years with the U.S. Special Forces in Afghanistan. So, I mean, because of my work, and my face, and my name, will become known. I am one of those people that they tried to kill. And so, you know, I applied for immigration to come to the United States. I wanted to restart my life, basically from zero to the United States. And I still got some more friends that are there right now working with the special ops in Afghanistan. And they are hoping to come to the United States for a better life.

MACCALLUM: OK. Joanne, tell us what you think about this new directive and whether or not you're optimistic about them, and whether or not people like Hajdary and the other colleagues who he works with will be protected.

JOANNE FARHIRE, IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY: You know I am optimistic. I am hoping that President Trump does realize that there is an issue with immigration, that the immigration system needs to be worked on. But, you know, the way he implemented the executive order before, it did impact victims, you know, the refugees that were coming in, these are people who have already been victimized. They're fleeing their countries because they've been persecuted where they have a well-founded fear of persecution.

I understand and I totally support the need for strong borders and security of United States. You know, I am a Republican. I supported the Republican president. However, I don't support the weight that this immigration ban was handled. You have to understand that these are people that are fleeing and they are in fear of their life. So to bring them into this country, they land in an airport, and then they're detained again where they spent.

MACCALLUM: And they're going to try to get that right this time. I want to get a quick thought from Ron Stafford, pastor. You're listening to all of this. We're talking about compassion and we're talking about security. What do you think?

RON STAFFORD, PASTOR AND FLORIDA RESIDENT: I think the compassion comes with the security. The president, he's working very hard to secure our borders. But yet, those who have green cards and have already been vetted, I think the compassion comes in when you can allow those people to come in. And if they need anything else that needs to be done, then they can finish the investigation. But you must have some compassion for those who put their lives on the line for our country. Those who are here and working, we must begin to work to help them to become citizens.

MACCALLUM: Thank you, pastor. A quick break, we will be right back live from Jacksonville.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

MACCALLUM: That has been a very eye-opening conversation here tonight in Jacksonville, Florida. I want to thank all of our guests and our panelist for taking the time to discuss these hot button issues that are very much in all of our minds right now, dealing with immigration in America. We would love to hear from you at home, too. Go to facebook.com/marthamaccallum, you can leave me a message or send me a tweet @marthamaccallum, #first100. Thanks for watching it, everybody. We'll see you tomorrow night. Thank you.

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## The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 06, 2017

# Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Sean Spicer

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:47 P.M. EST

MR. SPICER: Good afternoon, everybody. Another quiet weekend. (Laughter.)

Q You sure you don't want to do this on camera? (Laughter.)

MR. SPICER: The President signed a new executive order this morning that continues to protect the nation from terrorists entering into the United States, and a related presidential memorandum. As we've always maintained, the executive order was fully lawful in the first place, and we would have won the related legal cases on the merits. But rather than leave America's security in limbo while the litigation dragged on, some estimates having that go

up to potentially a year, the President acted to protect the national security by issuing a new executive order that addresses the court's concerns, some of which merely involve clarifying the intent of the original executive order.

After reviewing the facts and in thorough consultation with the Cabinet, the President had concluded these actions are necessary to protect the United States from those who, unfortunately, wish to do us harm.

Two areas that I want to highlight in the executive order. There will be a 90-day suspension of travel to the United States by nationals from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, during which time the Department of State and Homeland Security will conduct a review to determine how we can improve the screening process for foreign nationals seeking to enter the United States.

These six countries have been previously identified by Congress and the Obama administration as presenting heightened concerns about terrorism. Specifically, Iran, Sudan and Syria have been designated as state sponsors of terrorism. Libya is an active combat zone where violent extremist groups thrive in ungoverned territory. Portions of Somalia have been a safe haven for terrorist groups. Most countries don't even recognize the Somali documents.

Yemen is the site of an ongoing conflict between the government and Iran-backed armed opposition. Both ISIS and al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula have exploited this conflict to expand their presence in Yemen and carry out hundreds of attacks.

These governments simply cannot or not adequately supply satisfactory information about their own nationals. In the absence of adequate information from these governments, the President has had to act to protect the security of the American people.

After the original executive order, Iraq's government took steps to increase their cooperation with our immigration authorities and improve their vetting process, leading them to be removed from the list of countries covered by the temporary travel suspension. We hope other countries will also take proactive action to ensure the security of all of our nations.

This is proof of both the need for and the effectiveness of the President's actions. There are a number of exceptions to this temporary travel suspension. The order explicitly states that the suspension does not apply to, one, green card holders; two, foreign nationals currently in the U.S.; three, foreign nationals currently holding valid visas; four, foreign nationals who are dual citizens of a designated country traveling on a passport issued by a non-designated country; and last, foreign nationals who have been granted asylum or admitted as refugees previously.

There will also be a temporary 120-day suspension of the United States refugees' admissions program. More than 300 people who have entered the United States as refugees are currently the subjects of counterterrorism investigations by the FBI. We must find a way to better screen refugee applicants to maintain the safety of our own communities.

This suspension will temporarily reduce the investigative burdens on the agencies that participate in our refugee program, allowing them to properly review and revise their standards and practices.

In regard to both of these provisions, the President places his full faith and trust in the experience and knowledge of his Secretary of State and his Secretary of Homeland Security. This order makes it clear that they have broad authority to grant waivers based on their expert judgments. This suspension does not apply to refugees already scheduled for travel by the Department of State, which is explicitly stated in the text of the executive order. Additionally, this suspension does not treat Syrian refugees different than any other refugees. It does not separately address the persecution of religious minorities, but does permit waivers in the cases of undue hardship.

This order was drafted in close consultation with the relevant agencies. It also includes a delay-effective date of March 16th, giving those involved in its enforcement even more time to facilitate an orderly rollout.

We welcome those who come to our country wishing to contribute and share in our nation's prosperity and wellbeing, but we cannot allow our immigration system to become a vehicle for admitting people who intend to do us harm. It is the President's solemn duty to protect the American people, and President Trump has taken an important step in securing our borders through this order.

Moving on to today, the President had a full day of meetings with the Cabinet and members of his staff. The President received his intelligence briefing this morning. He had a call earlier with the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, where they discussed regional security challenges. The Prime Minister thanked the President for his strong stance on anti-Semitism during his joint address to Congress last week.

The President had lunch with the Vice President, and, as I'm speaking to you now, he is beginning a meeting with the Secretary of State. Later today, he'll have meetings with his National Economic Council and Secretary of Veterans Affairs Shulkin. This evening, he'll have dinner with OMD Director Mulvaney and Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, where he will talk about the repeal-and-replace efforts regarding Obamacare.

With that, I'll be glad to take a few questions.

Q Follow-up on the executive order? Have you told--

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MR. SPICER: John Roberts.

Q Thank you. (Laughter.) You told us -- I figured since it's just a gaggle -- you told us many times that the President was going to continue with the case in Seattle federal court, yet paragraph 13 in the new EO says he's going to revoke the original one. What changed?

MR. SPICER: As you know, he met with his team over the weekend down in Mar-a-Lago -- general counsel, Secretary Sessions, Secretary Kelly, Stephen Miller, other members of the team -- where they discussed -- continued discussing the current executive order, as well as the strategy. And they made a determination that it was best to pursue this track.

And again, I think, as I mentioned in the opening remarks, we continue to maintain that the order was fully lawful but there were some legal hurdles that we'd have to potentially cross in terms of enjoinder and things like that.

So it was discussed with the President Saturday, and he made a decision that this was how he wanted to proceed going forward, based on the advice and counsel of his team.

Q DOJ has informed the 9th circuit of the existence of the new executive order. Will they move to dismiss the 48 cases that are facing that original order?

MR. SPICER: That's a good question. I know that there's the issue of both the 9th circuit and then the other ones. And I'll have to get back to you on that. I don't know what posture they're going to take, so we'll go forward.

Margaret.

Q I was just going to say, would you be able to let all of us --

MR. SPICER: Oh, yeah, I'm sorry. Yeah, I'd be glad to let everybody know.

Q I've got a question too but I can wait until he's finished, it's fine.

MR. SPICER: John, are you done?

Q Oh, I'm done.

MR. SPICER: Okay. See how much nicer this is? Margaret.

Q Oh, thank you. Well, actually I'd like to move away from this subject to the other subject.

MR. SPICER: Sure.

Q Is the President going to clarify what he meant when he accused President Obama and White House officials of being wiretaps? Is that what he meant, or did he mean that he



thinks there were wiretaps that the FBI authorized? And does he want to kind of, like, amend his previous statement?

MR. SPICER: I think the statement that we issued yesterday where -- President Donald J. Trump is requesting as part of the investigation of Russian activity that congressional intelligence committees exercise their oversight authority to determine whether executive branch investigative powers were abused in 2016. Neither the White House nor the President will comment further until such oversight is continued.

He wants Congress to look into this. I've spoken to the President again today. He would ask that they, additionally, look into this issue of leaks of classified and other information coming from the government. He believes that it undermines our national security and that Congress -- the intelligence communities in Congress, using their oversight authority, look into these pervasive leaks of national security -- of classified information. So he would do that.

I would note, it's interesting that when you look at what former DNI Clapper said on "Meet the Press," when he was asked if there was any evidence that the Trump campaign was colluding with the Russian government while the Kremlin was working to influence the election, his quote was, "Not to my knowledge."

I think we've continued to see people who have been briefed and are aware of these stories that have existed -- Congressman Chairman Nunes of the Intelligence Committee, Tom Cotton of the -- he's on the Senate Intelligence Committee, Richard Burr, Marco Rubio -- you name it, on and on and on, have said that the information that they've been provided -- and this is -- I get it, there's two separate issues here. But I think on the first one, you saw over and over again the continued comments by people who are in the know or have been in the know on that situation saying that there was no knowledge. Conversely, you saw former Attorney General Mukasey come out and talk about -- that it's pretty clear that there was some sort of surveillance or wiretaps that had to have existed.

All that being said, I think that's why the President is asking Congress, the intelligence committees to use their oversight authority to further understand what's in this.

I'm sorry.

Q And so --

MR. SPICER: I'm not sorry but I knew you --

Q No, no, no -- yeah. Just before we move on -- okay, so for now, the President is not amending what he tweeted.

Q And Jim Comey, in the meantime, I guess wanted Justice to knock it down. Has the President talked to Jim Comey?

MR. SPICER: I'll be honest with you, I have not seen anything aside from another report based on anonymous sources that that actually happened. So aside from anonymous sources saying that a conversation happened, I'm not aware that that occurred. I don't know that we're aware that that occurred. And I, frankly, don't see anything on the record that show that that actually occurred.

So just to be clear, this is one of the problems that I think occurred in the whole first set of stories. People start taking things as fact because a series of off-the-record and anonymous sources say they do. We have started to become a series of believing all of these stories, and yet -- I've addressed this in the past -- there's nothing there to substantiate it.

In fact, all of the people, from -- I mean, Clapper's comment, "Not to my knowledge." You saw Nunes, Rubio, all these senators and House members that have been briefed by the FBI coming out and saying, we have not seen anything, either. At some point, I would ask people to take on-the-record sources and quotes as important as the countless numbers of anonymous off-the-records.

Zeke. Oh, I'm sorry --

Q Sean --

MR. SPICER: No, no, no, I just saw the top of a head. Hallie, I'm going to get to you, don't worry. I'm sorry, that was my bad.

Q It's okay, it's all right. So explain this to me, then. You're talking about not using anonymous sources. What is, then, the sourcing for the President's tweet on Saturday morning?

MR. SPICER: As I said, I think, look --

Q And does he believe it's a FISA warrant. Is it some other -- of surveillance?

MR. SPICER: It could be FISA. It could be surveillance. There's no cameras, slow it down.

Q So he doesn't know?

MR. SPICER: Look, I think he has made it clear that there are continued reports that have been out there. I'm not going to continue to -- I think the President made it clear yesterday that he wants Congress to go in and look at this. I think there is substantial reporting out there from individuals and from sources.

Q But what sources?

MR. SPICER: Okay. Sara, you're not on camera. You don't need to jump in. We'll get to your question in turn. Hold on.

The answer is, is that the President has made it clear he wants Congress to look into this. And we're encouraging the House and Senate intelligence committees to use their oversight capabilities and look into this.

John Gizzi.

Q Sean, does he not know whether -- what kind of surveillance it was?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think that there's no question that something happened. The question is, is it surveillance, is it a wiretap, or whatever. But there's been enough reporting that strongly suggests that something occurred. And I think that that's why what he has said yesterday is that he wants Congress to look into this. And I think that there is enough out there now that makes one wonder how some of this happened without the existence of surveillance.

Q But when he published his tweet --

MR. SPICER: Right.

Q -- did he know what kind of surveillance?

MR. SPICER: All I'm telling -- like I said, I'm going to put a pin in this and say, the statement yesterday made it very clear that he wants House and Senate Intelligence Committee members to use their oversight authority to look into this situation.

John Gizzi.

Q Thank you, Sean. Has the President ever said there's hypocrisy and a double standard in the reporting of things? For example, about alleged Russian involvement in U.S. elections, and then on the other hand, relatively little attention paid to the leaking of conversations with world leaders that are classified? And does the leaking of his conversations with world leaders bother him and make him want to investigate that as well?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I mean, I think he is very concerned about that. There is obviously information that affects national security that has been leaked out that concerns him. I mean, it's -- and I think when you've seen some of the leader calls being leaked out that are sort of congratulatory or not necessarily dealing with state secrets or national security, that's one thing to seem -- but it gives you pause and concern to realize that, if you're talking about something of national security, of something that affects two of our different economies or countries, that -- whether it's China or North Korea, whether you're actually talking to them or talking about them with another leader, that there is obviously concern

that those calls are getting leaked out. And I think that's why the President is also now asking Congress to additionally use its oversight authorities to also look at those leaks and wonder why that's happening.

So I think he is concerned. I think we've said it several times before, and it's obviously something that is of major concern. And, frankly, when you recognize the potential that that could have on the safety of our country, it should give everyone pause.

Hallie.

Q Sean, two topics for you here. I want to clarify some questions again from my colleagues. Has the President spoken with the FBI director about the allegations he made Saturday morning, and does he have confidence in his FBI?

MR. SPICER: To the best of my knowledge, I'm almost 100 percent certain that he has not, but I've not specifically asked him. I'm not aware that that occurred. Obviously I'll give myself -- and I'd be glad to get back, but I have not known that that existed. So I'm giving myself the ability to get back to you on this, but I'm not --

Q And all of us.

MR. SPICER: And all of you. We're making a list. But I am not aware that that actually happened.

Q And the confidence question. Does he have confidence in his director?

MR. SPICER: There's nothing that I have been told by him that would lead me to believe that anything is different than when it was prior.

Q And before I get to the second topic, a clarification here. You're talking about the President wanting to go to Congress, specifically on the wiretapping question, but this is information that is held by the executive branch. So why would the President, if it's information the executive branch has --

MR. SPICER: Because I think that there's -- like, again, and I'm not going to -- I want to stay in my wheelhouse here. But my understanding is, is that the President directing the Department of Justice to do something with respect to an investigation that may or may not occur with evidence may be seen as trying to interfere. And I think that we're trying to do this in the proper way, and that's --

Q So his tweets about it -- sort of saying that this information exists does not --

MR. SPICER: That doesn't interfere with an investigation.

Q Okay, the second topic was actually on the immigration executive order. The President back in January tweeted about a one-week delay on the travel ban, would have let “bad dudes” enter the country. This particular revised order doesn’t go into effect for another 10 days.

MR. SPICER: The 16th.

Q So what changed? How does that under -- does that undercut your argument that the nation was at risk?

MR. SPICER: Well, I would argue that the court kind of undercut our argument by not reading the U.S. code the way it’s intended to. But I think we lost the element of surprise way back when we said we were going to issue a second executive order.

Q So that’s what it was about, the element of surprise?

MR. SPICER: Oh, absolutely. I think we said at the beginning. The whole reason that we did it in the way that we did was because if you -- started to telegraph it. But I think that when we started talking about a second executive order a couple of weeks back, I think that that generally took away -- whether it was done on Friday or Sunday or Monday, it wouldn’t have mattered. And people have been able to -- we have telegraphed what we’re doing for the last couple weeks. We took that away, and the President, as you’ve seen, has been very methodical about making sure we’ve talked about this for the last week --

Q Since the --

MR. SPICER: Right, but talking about implementing it correctly. And I think Saturday night, if you saw the group of individuals who were down in Florida sitting with him, this is part of that implementation process that we’ve been talking about, that we were continuing to tweak it, to get it ready to speed, overcome a lot of issues and concerns that had to get added in or out, and make sure that the government was properly -- but make no mistake, we lost the element of surprise back when we said -- when the court enjoined this in the 9th circuit, and then we had to go back to the drawing board and we talked about doing a second order. That was the intent of it the entire time. You lose that back then.

Zeke.

Q Going back to the previous topic, the President calling for Congress to investigate these specific issues. Does that mean that the President is willing -- or is committing now to accepting the conclusions of these congressional investigations no matter what they say on anything? So because he’s now calling for this investigation, he is now committing to accept the outcome?

MR. SPICER: Well, I don't think you would ever just blanketly say "I'm going to accept any outcome." That doesn't matter what it is. You can go to court and -- it doesn't mean that you get found guilty or innocent that you're accepting the outcome, it means that you're agreeing that that's a legitimate -- but I think we're going to let Congress work its will. I think if we have a problem with one of the conclusions, we'll let it be known.

But I think that, for right now, the issue is, is that we think that that's the appropriate place for this to be looked into. And they have the resources, and they, themselves, have admitted that.

Alexis.

Q Sean, can I ask two topics?

MR. SPICER: Sure.

Q On this topic, let me just follow up. If members of Congress pursue an investigation that looks into surveillance in the way the President would like them to, and he believes that that surveillance is potentially against the law, they would make recommendations to the executive branch to pursue and prosecute anyone responsible for that. So their recommendations would come back to the Justice Department. So to ask the question again, would the President accept the recommendations of the legislative branch that potentially laws were broken and that those accusations should come back to the Justice Department to investigate?

MR. SPICER: I think it's hard to prejudge what they're doing. Obviously, the reason that he's asking the House and Senate Intelligence Committee to go through this is because he thinks that they are the appropriate venues. They have the appropriate staff to look at them, and I think it's an appropriate way of having that separation of powers, if you will, where it's not asking -- directing the Department of Justice to do something that they may or may not be the ones conducting.

But again, the reason I don't want to give a blanket statement, Alexis, isn't because I'm trying to prejudge it. But I think that depending on a lot of things, you don't want to say, we're going to accept every single thing they do. I think we definitely will have a lot of respect for what they do and what they look into, but I think to blanketly accept -- just say, we're going to accept anything they say or do, might be a bit premature and not exactly the way to go.

Q And I had a healthcare question but before I do that, it was reported that the President was interested in having the White House Counsel pursue information that would help support the President's argument that he may have been under surveillance. Is it the case

that the President has indeed asked Don McGhan to continue doing that? Or is he dropping that and --

MR. SPICER: No, Don McGhan was never asked -- all Don McGhan was ever asked to do was to review what options, if any, were available. That's it. Just review internally and tell the President, this is what's -- but we made very clear to anyone who asked -- and if you know Don and the team here -- these are unbelievably talented lawyers. They're very skilled in understanding their -- where the bounds are, and would understand that any type of interference would be -- it was an internal review of what options, if any, were available. So it's full stop.

Q And that was completed?

MR. SPICER: That guidance was made available to the President.

Q Okay. Here's my healthcare question.

MR. SPICER: It was also reported that the President's desire for speed with the administration's own Affordable Care Act replacement plan has kicked the ball to the OMB Director rather than the HHS Secretary to complete that work and get it out this week. Who is in charge of actually completing that? Is it more now in the ball court of OMB rather than HHS? Or are they working together? How would you describe it, and is it still coming out this week?

MR. SPICER: I believe it is coming out -- I have every intention that it comes out this week. But I think it's a joint effort. I think Secretary Price is obviously the lead; it's HHS. But Director Mulvaney, his time -- I mean, they've both served in the House and were champions of budget issues. Obviously, there's a huge budgetary impact on that, and his understanding of the budget, his role here, and, obviously, his understanding of Congress makes Director Mulvaney a great partner.

So it's not a question of -- and this is the same issue that came up during the transition on trade. I think we have an unbelievably talented team -- everybody from Robert Lighthizer, when he gets confirmed as the U.S. Trade Rep, you've got Wilbur Ross at Commerce, Peter Navarro here -- it's not an either/or thing. It's I think bringing the best and the brightest together to get something through.

Obamacare and repealing and replacing it with something that's more accessible, affordable, more innovative is not something that just has to land in one person's hand. It can be covered -- and I think there are great partners and great teammates.

Yes.



Q Yes, please, thank you, Sean. I'm just wondering when you said that it's pretty clear that there was some sort of intelligence or wiretaps and that that's why we need to move forward with an investigation, is that based on people speaking on the record, or anonymous sources?

MR. SPICER: On the record. I think General Mukasey was very much on the record when he came to that conclusion. I think that when you -- anyway. I will leave it to Congress to further follow up on that.

Q And one more, if I may. The President has yet to announce the vast majority of his sub-Cabinet-level nominations, such as Ambassador to Japan. Does the White House have a long-term timeline for all the rest of these nominations?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I think that you should -- there's a bunch of sub-Cabinet individuals and ambassadorships that should be coming out very soon. One of the things that I think -- I'm glad you kind of gave me an opportunity to touch on personnel. There was a report the other day that of, like, the 1,927 positions that -- someone went through, I think one of the things that people have to recognize is -- we talked about this a lot during the transition. We had about 600 members of these beachhead teams that went in under a special hiring process -- that they're able to be there for 120 days. For the most part, most of those people transition into Schedule C positions. It's not a given. It is not a default, meaning -- and I think we made it clear during the transition -- it's not just if you showed up for the first 120 days you get to stay. But sort of -- they were chosen specifically because of their understanding of the issue, their expertise or their desire to serve in that particular capacity.

And so we actually -- when you actually look at the numbers, we are well ahead, if not on par with -- we're well ahead of almost every modern administration. I think we're right on par with Obama '08. But you think about it, of the 1,927 or so positions, we've got over 600 of those individuals, and -- most of whom so far are looking like they're fully going to convert to Schedule C. But they are performing the duties that would be done by a Schedule C.

So when you look at the totality of what we're doing, we were well ahead on the Cabinet. And again, one of the other things is, you've got Congress still holding up the Cabinet getting appointed. And so I think there's a degree to which Senate Democrats, before we get a lot of stones thrown at us about where we are on the rest, they haven't even finished the job at hand of getting the full Cabinet.

Jon Decker.

Q Thanks a lot, Sean. Two questions on the executive order. With the first executive order, there was a lot of fanfare when the President signed that executive order; in the Oval Office



today, not so much. We didn't see the President, no cameras, no pool. Why didn't he want to show us him signing this new executive order?

MR. SPICER: I tweeted a picture out.

Q That's your picture, that's not independent --

Q Well, I know -- from today. Yeah, that's your --

MR. SPICER: I know, I'm -- I think -- (laughter) -- there are three agencies that are dealing with -- to your point, we went through this. We talked about the courts issue, we talked about this ad nauseam; the President got asked about it over and over again. I think today was about the implementation of it, was about having the three Departments that are expressly named to implement this to talk about what they're doing to implement it. And I think they did a phenomenal job about it.

And that's what we wanted to highlight today, is the government getting it done. And the way that the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State were implementing the measures that the President laid forth -- again, if you think about it, the principles of the executive order remain the same. We looked at what the court said, we put together a thing -- we consulted with the relevant agencies and Departments. We talked to Congress. We had an extensive morning of briefings. The call to the press lasted about an hour, I guess.

And so we made sure that everybody knew what we were doing. We sent them out to make sure that the American people could see what they were doing.

And so I just want to be clear that I think we did a phenomenal job of rolling it out and making sure the American people saw the faces of the Departments that were instrumental in implementing it.

I'm sorry, Jon, go ahead.

Q That's all right. The second one has to do with this idea of "element of surprise." With the first executive order and also with this one, there's a 90-day temporary ban on residents entering this country from six predominantly Muslim countries. What's to stop a so-called "bad dude" from one of these countries from coming into the country on the 91st day, or the 92nd day? Why 90 days? Doesn't that get rid of that element of surprise when you say --

MR. SPICER: No, I think that -- no, but -- thank you, that's actually an interesting question. I think part of it is, is that we feel confident that during that 90-day period, the processes could be put in place.

Now, remember, there's two key things that are important. Number one is these six countries are the ones that we don't have the information currently that we feel comfortable -- and as I lifted off why -- I mean, there are some that literally are state-sponsors of terror. And I think when you recognize -- I don't think there's any American that wants a country that is a state-sponsor of terror to be sending their individuals here without us properly vetting them.

You talk about Yemen, the documents that people use in Yemen are not accepted by a whole host of countries because they lack the integrity to ensure that they are not compromised. And I think that there is a big difference in that, but we can -- at the end of that 90-day period, we can let a country off, we can expand the list of countries, we could indefinitely address the countries that are on the list, we could expand that list to other countries that aren't on it.

But there's two things that are happening. One is, we're putting a ban on those countries, the six that are named. But two is, we're looking at an entire -- at the rest of the entire world, and all of the procedures that we use to address all countries.

And so at the end of that period, we could add countries. We could subtract countries. We could decide to indefinitely continue with one of the two -- one of the six, rather. But if you look at the case of Iraq, after the first order, they stepped up with four very specific things that they did to ensure that people traveling from Iraq, we had certain things -- whether it be biometrics and others -- that let us ensure that people coming into the country, we felt confident in knowing that they were coming in.

But that's an important thing. It's not just those six. We're looking at that time -- we're dealing with those during that 90-day -- but we're also looking at everybody else at the same period.

Kaitlan.

Q So why doesn't the order prevent people who didn't have visas by the day of the first order from coming in the country? Because wouldn't that safeguard from the people who went and got visas during this revision period?

MR. SPICER: I would just say I think that there's appropriate steps that have been taken during that period to ensure that the homeland has been protected.

Go ahead, I know you have another one.

Q Just one more question.

MR. SPICER: Of course.

Q Does the President think that Barack Obama himself wiretapped him, or someone in the administration?

MR. SPICER: I'm just going to say that as the President noted in his statement, we're going to let Congress look into that and then we'll get back to you -- we'll discuss it after Congress comes with -- Erin.

Q Since the President contends that he and President Obama like each other, has he picked up the phone and called President Obama since the inauguration, or did he think about asking him directly before accusing him publicly?

MR. SPICER: I have not -- I'm not aware of whether or not they've talked. I can ask and find out and get back to you.

Cecilia.

Q Does the fact that you're rescinding this first executive order -- is it at all an admission that things just didn't go right the first time around?

MR. SPICER: No. I think the first executive order, we've made clear time and time again -- when you look at how the court adjudicated that, their facts were wrong. Just in terms of how many people had come into the country, they based it off of several things that I think were not factually accurate. I think we recognized that we could have been in litigation for up to a year on this, and that would have left the country exposed.

And I think that that's -- there is a goal here that we sought to achieve the first time that we have to maintain. But by no means -- we 100 percent maintain that the executive order as initially drafted is completely constitutional and legal, and that what we've done is to do the best of our ability based on what the court --

Q Sean --

MR. SPICER: Hold on, it's still Cecilia's turn.

Q Thank you. What about this issue of radicalization after people are here, which is what DHS raised in that report? One of the examples that's cited in the EO today is the Somali man, now, who came as a child and was radicalized here. So what does this order do about that population of people?

MR. SPICER: The people that are here --

Q That are here, which is what -- the concern that DHS raised in this report, that said people -- the bigger concern is people who are here and are radicalized after the fact, not those that are here just stopping to --

MR. SPICER: I think that what we need to do -- this isn't a one-stop shop. I think that we have to look at this -- the entire problem. This is one piece of the problem that we're looking at to make sure that we keep the country safe. It's not a either/or, or only-this-then. But I think you're going to see a continuation of steps that the President takes to make sure that the country is protected.

One small correction that I've been made aware of, it's Somalia, not Yemen, that the travel docs are not accepted. So my apologies to Yemen.

Jeff, did you -- hold on. Thanks. Jeff.

Q Thank you, Sean. You've mentioned a couple times and referred a couple times today to DNI Clapper -- former DNI Clapper's comments on -- over the weekend about Russia and the Trump campaign. Are you encouraging people to take those comments seriously but not the comments where he said there was no wiretapping?

MR. SPICER: No, I'm just -- well, first of all, he also said that he wasn't aware -- he couldn't speak entirely when it came to wiretapping. He said that he wasn't aware of anything. I take him at his word that he wasn't aware, but that doesn't mean that it didn't exist.

But I also think that it's interesting that the double standard that has existed for so long when it comes to -- you have these sources over and over again who have been briefed by the FBI that say, I was briefed, there's nothing there. You have Clapper saying, "Not that I'm aware of." And yet, we still have these stories over and over again citing anonymous sources.

At some point, you have to question how many times are you going to take "didn't see anything there" before we start seeing these stories getting rewritten over and over and over again? I think that is a valid question. It's interesting how everyone today is asking what sources we have, and yet we've been asking the same question about the sources for these anonymous sources and story after story for the last six months. And it's just, don't worry, we have these trusted anonymous sources that may or may not be true. And at the bottom of every story it has some kind of caveat that -- however there has been no formal evidence presented.

I think there's been a malignment for so many months about what may or may not have happened, and yet not a shred of single truth has actually come that shows any evidence that existed except for anonymous source after anonymous source after anonymous source.

Q On a different issue?

MR. SPICER: Yeah.

Q What is the White House's reaction to North Korea firing four ballistic missiles into the sea off of Japan's northwest?

MR. SPICER: The launches are consistent with North Korea's long history of provocative behavior. The United States stands with our allies in the face of this very serious threat. The Trump administration is taking steps to enhance our ability to defend against North Korea's ballistic missiles, such as through the deployment of a THAAD battery to South Korea -- South Korea.

Q I just want to circle back around to a couple things that you said. You said it could be FISA, it could be surveillance. So are you saying that the administration is conceding that somewhere there was evidence presented before a judge that shows there could be collusion with the campaign and that it was okay to surveil them?

MR. SPICER: No, what I'm suggesting is that, as I said, that our goal is to allow Congress to do its job, as the statement said yesterday.

Olivier.

Q And then the follow-up on the new order. You had said that there are a hundred or so that had been inspected, but how many total that came in that you all have detained.

MR. SPICER: It's 300.

Q Of 300 -- 100 refugees? You said hundreds of -- or 300 refugees. How many total came in, and how many did you detain?

MR. SPICER: I'd ask you to talk to the Department of Justice -- actually, Homeland Security on that one. I know the top-line stat on that one.

Olivier.

Q A couple for you. One, just scheduling. The Israeli defense minister is in town tomorrow. Will he meet with the President?

MR. SPICER: I'll have to get back to you on that. I'm not aware that that's on the schedule at this time, but -- I don't know. I know that he and Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke earlier. I'm not aware that that came up.

Q And can you flesh out this notion of 300 refugees being investigated? What are they being investigated for, specifically? What's the source for this information --

MR. SPICER: The FBI.

Q So the FBI is investigating 300 refugees currently on U.S. soil on terrorism-related charges?

MR. SPICER: That's what I have been -- yes. I'll get you the stat for that, but that's --

Q That would be great. Thank you.

MR. SPICER: Anita.

Q Can you talk a little bit about Iraq and how they're not -- why they're not in the executive order anymore? So is this a signal to the other six and to other countries that they can also get removed if they -- I think you called it "proactive," if they were proactively having their own actions?

MR. SPICER: I think what I would say, and I think the way you phrased it is right. It's not just the six countries, it's countries throughout the globe. I think that we are -- it is in every country's best interest to know who's coming in and out of its country and to do things. And I think there are things that we've asked countries to do. And it's not inclusive, it's not "have you hit these four." I think each country is a separate case. So I don't want to say, "if you do these four you're in."

Q But is it possible, then, to --

MR. SPICER: Absolutely. I think there is -- now, in some cases, like anything else, Anita, it may be easier for one country to achieve something than for another. But at the end of the day, I think there are certain things that -- there are certain steps that Iraq went through, including things like biometrics and turning over lists of -- updating lists, rather, of people within their country that have -- that pose a threat.

And so that -- they've agreed to do certain things after the first one was ordered that give us a much greater degree of confidence in knowing who is coming in and out of the country.

Q And then on another topic. What was the President's reaction to hearing about Vice President Pence's email use, personal email for government business? I ask, obviously, because he had so many things to say about Hillary Clinton using personal email for government business last year?

MR. SPICER: I was going to insert, like, an AOL joke here. (Laughter.)

But I think, look, I don't -- I think there's a big difference. The Vice President complied with Indiana law, turned over all of his emails and made sure that everything was done. I mean, that's a very big step. There's no question that I've been made aware of that he didn't do everything in compliance with Indiana law. There's a big difference between doing what is common practice within a state government and what is in compliance with that state's

laws, then setting up a private server that seeks specifically to go around the government protocols and the Federal Records Act.

There's a big difference between that. But I mean, the governor at the time, and now the Vice President, did everything in compliance with Indiana law. And I think that's a big difference, is that it's not a question of -- it's a question of was there a law and was there a rule and did you follow it. In the case of Governor Pence, he did. In the case of Secretary Clinton, I would let the record speak for itself on that.

Sara. Gabby, I'm sorry.

Q Thanks, Sean. Part of the justification for the hurried rollout of the initial executive order on immigration was that if it wasn't rolled out immediately, that people would take advantage of that and come into the country. So why has the administration decided to delay the implementation of this new executive order until March 16th?

MR. SPICER: I'm going to refer you Hallie Jackson. (Laughter.) That was what Hallie asked earlier.

Q Sorry.

MR. SPICER: No problem, it's in the -- but basically the answer that I gave Hallie that I'll give to you is, I think the first order -- one of the goals of the first order was an element of surprise, to implement it in a way that didn't allow people to get in, right?

Since the 9th Circuit acted, we've been talking about a second executive order. I think we lost the element of surprise back in mid- to early February when the 9th Circuit acted the way they did. So that element -- what we've tried to do now is to make sure, with that element gone, that we've implemented this in a way that ensures the greatest degree of confidence that we know what we're doing.

One quick item -- I'm not done, so don't -- you can keep your hands -- someone asked earlier, and I'm trying to remember who, about the source for DOJ. Was that you, Olivier? The Department of Justice, FBI investigation, section one, subsection H, the text of the EO notes -- you can check on that for the source.

I'm sorry. Matt.

Q Thanks. Sean, doubling back to something we talked about earlier. President Trump accused President Obama of criminal conduct. One, can you tell us what his source was for that accusation? Two, can you tell us, unequivocally, that he was basing that on more than a talk radio report and a Breitbart article about that talk radio report?



MR. SPICER: I'm going to tell that -- I've said it over and over again, I think the President made it very clear in the statement yesterday that he is not going to comment any further on this until Congress does --

Q So maybe it was just based on the talk radio report?

MR. SPICER: I'm not going to -- I'm just going to say that the President made it very clear that, based on numerous things, including -- and I think there's a New York Times story on it, there's several sources that made this clear or brought this to light -- but I'm not going to go into anything further, as the President noted, until this is resolved.

Mara.

Q I have two topics. One, on the EO that maybe is coming later this week -- an EO on the Obama administration's fuel-economy standards. Are you going to have an EO reversing those, and will that also negate California's waiver?

MR. SPICER: I don't see anything on -- I'll have to get back to you, as my standard. I'm not so sure on the timing -- I was just looking at my date.

Q Oh, okay. Thank you.

MR. SPICER: But I'd just -- I wouldn't get -- I don't have anything to announce at the time, is generally how I answer that, and I'm going to stick to it.

Q Okay, but I have just one more question on the other topic. You said that you pointed rightly to Clapper's comments -- nothing that he knows of suggests there was any collusion between the campaign and Russia. But he also said that he didn't know of any wiretap FISA order. Why are you willing to accept his --

MR. SPICER: That's what Jeff asked.

Q Well, I guess the thing I'm asking is that the President of the United States has unilateral authority to declassify anything that he wants. He said in his tweet, I just learned of this. So he obviously had some kind of evidence. Why not declassify it?

MR. SPICER: I think that's -- as I have made clear, there's a reason that we want Congress, the intelligence committees to do their job in terms of making sure that there's a separation of powers.

Q He's afraid it would look like interference?

MR. SPICER: I think that, again, I'm just going to leave it at that he thinks it's appropriate for Congress to do this instead of trying to point to his own Department of Justice.



Ashley.

Q Sean --

MR. SPICER: Hold on, you're going to wait your turn. It's Ashley's turn.

Q Thank you. This morning, Kellyanne Conway went on Fox News and she said, "He's the President of the United States. He has information and intelligence that the rest of us do not." So that seemed to be referring not to these news reports you're talking about, but to specific, tangible evidence. So what can you tell us about what that evidence is, where it came from? And then secondly, if he has this evidence, why is he asking Congress to investigate?

MR. SPICER: Well, I just -- I think the point that Kellyanne was making at the time is that the President, because he's President, gets access to NSC and other intelligence documents. I don't know -- I haven't seen the exact transcript, so I can't --

Q I can read it to you.

MR. SPICER: I appreciate that, thank you. But I also haven't talked to Kellyanne about it, so I don't think you can do that part. But I don't -- so I can't specifically respond to you in terms of what she was referring to, whether she was referring to the exact nature of his charge or whether, generally speaking, he is given information.

But again, on all of this, I'm going to go back to the statement earlier that the President's goal right now is to make sure that House and Senate can do this -- yes.

Q Thank you, Sean. China is retaliating against the THAAD deployment in South Korea. What is the U.S. position?

MR. SPICER: It's retaliating against what?

Q Against the THAAD deployment in South Korea, THAAD battery deployment.

MR. SPICER: The THAAD battery?

Q Yes.

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I think we're going to work with South Korea. I mean, obviously, North Korea's missile launches present a danger to our friends down south. And I think, as I mentioned in our response, we're going to continue to work with the government of South Korea to address this thing.

Q Would the U.S. -- the Chinese government?

MR. SPICER: I'm not at this point -- huh?

EXH. CC TO MACLEOD-BALL DEC.

Case No. 2:17-cv-00135-JLR

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/03/06/press-gaggle-press-secretary-sean-spicer>

Q -- the Chinese government?

MR. SPICER: We have not had any further conversations on this. I think this is consistent with U.S. policy.

Margaret.

Q Sean, two points of clarification. Did the President mean in any way to suggest that the FBI broke the law, or any other intelligence agencies, with this allegation of wiretapping?

MR. SPICER: In the tweet?

Q Yes.

MR. SPICER: I'm just going to let the tweet speak for itself. I'm not going to get into --

Q Well, that's why I'm asking this question?

MR. SPICER: I get it, but I think that I'm not going to try to --

Q Because it opens that up.

MR. SPICER: I understand that, and I think I will seek further clarification on that. For right now, I would just suggest to you that I'm going to let it speak until I can get further clarification.

Q My second point of clarification here. You said, you know, you didn't want to really get into what the triggering event was for the tweet in the first place, but I want you to address this part if you would. The question has been raised -- or the allegation has been raised that the President was simply trying to change the topic off of an unfortunate news cycle that week. Can you address that portion of the question, that this was deliberately about changing the media narrative and not anything having to do with the story itself?

MR. SPICER: No, I don't -- I mean, that's -- I have nothing to lead me to believe that that was the case. I'm not sure -- and I think he had a great week last week. He had a phenomenal joint address. We had a great visit down in Norfolk, talked about rebuilding the military. He was in Orlando, in Florida, talking about how school choice can help children and parents and create better schools.

So I just -- I can't say that I've talked to him specifically about this, but I think the President had a good week. And so I don't see any reason that he would be using -- I mean, that just -- I think it was an issue of concern to him.

Q Sean, let's remind everybody what the President did tweet Saturday morning: "Terrible! Just found out that Obama had my 'wires tapped' in Trump Tower just before the victory."

He later called Obama a stupid guy -- or whatever it was exactly -- a sick guy. Yeah, sorry. Are the American people supposed to pull back and suddenly think that this is not the President of the United States accusing his predecessor of committing a crime when he writes it that way?

MR. SPICER: Look, I think the President speaks very candidly. His tweets speak for themselves, as we've said before, and he's asked the House and Senate committees to look into this.

Sara.

Q Considering the scrutiny surrounding President Trump's then-campaign advisors and Russia, which has carried over at the White House, is he reconsidering at all his hope or his timeline for pairing with Russia to fight ISIS?

MR. SPICER: Is he -- based on --

Q Just based on the amount of scrutiny surrounding his --

MR. SPICER: No, I mean, I think if Russia wants to join with us to fight ISIS, that's a great --

Q So nothing has changed on that front?

MR. SPICER: No.

Q And secondly, in light of the fact that there were previously undisclosed communications between the Russian ambassador and Michael Flynn and Jeff Sessions and Jared Kushner, has White House counsel done anything proactively to try to go to senior staffers or other Cabinet-level officials and say, hey, if you have had contact with a Russian official that you have not previously disclosed, then now is the time to do it?

MR. SPICER: Not that I'm aware of. I'm not aware of any of that. I would say that there's -- one of the things that is interesting that, you know -- in the course of people conducting their business here at the White House or during a transition or in the House or the Senate, you contact a whole host of people -- diplomats, government officials, you know, association representatives, corporate representatives. I mean, that's -- those are the kind of folks that talk to people in government.

And I think that there's one thing between talking with somebody -- I mean, I think -- and again, I'll get back to you so don't be prescriptive on this. I think someone had told me earlier today that there were something like 20 visits to the Russian ambassador in the last, you know, 10, maybe, years. I don't -- huh?

Q Twenty-two.

MR. SPICER: Twenty-two. Thank you for helping fact check me. (Laughter.)

Q -- is not here, so somebody's got to do it. (Laughter.)

MR. SPICER: Thank you. Where's Knoller? But I think at some point, there's nothing wrong with people doing their job, right? I mean, that's what I think that there is a big difference between so-and-so met with someone. There's nothing to disclose with a meeting. If I have a meeting with a member of the media, no one says, hey, did you know that you need to report every time you meet with this individual or this outlet or whatever. There's nowhere to report that kind of stuff. There's a big difference between doing something nefarious or illegal and conducting yourself in a routine course of business.

Q But there were clearly a number of instances where people in this administration suggested they did not have any contact or misled you guys about the amount of contact they had, which has then caused some unflattering news cycles.

MR. SPICER: Well, and I think -- so in one case, Michael Flynn was, you know -- the President said the inconsistencies and him not being straight with the Vice President -- he asked him to resign. I think the President dealt with it.

But that was -- again, if you note the President's comments at the time, he was very clear that the issue wasn't that he's doing his job. The issue was him misleading the Vice President. And that's a very different thing.

So he had no problem with him doing his job and contacting individuals that we were going to need to be in contact with during the administration. And that's where I think there is a big difference between a lot of these stories saying, did you know that so and so did this? There's nothing wrong with people meeting with ambassadors, or government officials, or corporate representatives, or members of the media. That's part of what we do in government.

And so I think there's a big difference in the question that you're asking about whether or not someone is doing something that's wrong and inappropriate or illegal, and someone doing what they would do in a normal course of business.

Q Well, I think the other question is just whether there have been more instances in this that are going to catch you guys by surprise since he --

MR. SPICER: And I guess --

Q -- the President himself has denied that there was any kind of this contact throughout the campaign, and then we found out there were national security --

MR. SPICER: But hold on. Actually --

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Q -- advisors you didn't mention meeting with the Russian ambassador as well as Jeff Sessions, and then there was this meeting with Michael Flynn, as well as Jared Kushner, which was not previously disclosed.

MR. SPICER: Okay, so there's two things. You said the President found out about this. What's "this?" Having a meeting? Again, I don't think that -- there's countless meetings that members of his senior staff and the rest of people throughout government have on it every day. That's why he's asked us to come here and work, is to facilitate some of these meetings and get some of this stuff done.

There is no one to disclose stuff to. I don't disclose the --

Q That sounds like you're saying you're not concerned that they're --

MR. SPICER: No, it's not that I'm not concerned. I guess there's -- but what I'm getting at, Sara, is that there's a difference between being concerned about somebody -- I could equally be concerned that if a member of the media said, hey, I want to take a member of your staff out, and we're going to break some kind of ethics rule. I would be concerned about that. But I wouldn't be concerned if they said, hey, we want to go have coffee with a member of the media.

They don't disclose all that on our staff. And I think -- but that's essential to your question is, is a meeting -- there's nothing wrong with a meeting. There's nothing wrong with meeting with a government official, or a diplomat, or a member of the media, or a corporate individual, or association, or a constituent, or a citizen that has an issue. But on any of those categories, once they cross the line and do something wrong, and I think to the answer of your question, the issue was specifically -- or the question surrounded attempts to influence the election. Those are very different than people meeting also during a transition period, or people meeting in their White House capacity. But those are three separate instances.

All of the stories that I've heard so far, previously all detailed just action with respect to the campaign and Russia's attempt to influence the campaign, right?

Q Yes, I mean, I think --

MR. SPICER: Yes, I mean that's --

Q That was the backdrop.

MR. SPICER: Right. That's the backdrop. And then -- and so I think in the one instance where it happened where there was someone that misled someone, they were let go.

So for you to start asking questions about, well, what if these other individuals had a meeting? Well, were they ever asked about it? I mean there's a big difference between did someone meet with someone; and did someone mislead somebody about meeting someone. And that is a very, very big difference in those questions.

And that's one of the things that I think is important to distinguish. People can meet with people. The question is did they do something wrong. Did they mislead somebody? And those are all very, very different categories.

April.

Q Okay, Sean, I have a couple of topics. And back on this following up, so the question is: Under what capacity was he in when he met with the ambassador? And what did they talk about?

MR. SPICER: Who is he?

Q Sessions.

MR. SPICER: I don't know.

Q And then under -- then when he was under oath, he said he didn't do it. But then we find out later, so what do you say --

MR. SPICER: No, no. Well, first of all, I'm not going to -- I'll refer you back to the Department of Justice. I know -- my understanding is he's amending his testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee from what I've heard. So I'll let his people -- but I do think that his explanation that he gave was very -- was that he was answering a question did you have any meetings with anyone with respect to the campaign.

And I think in his mind, it was very clear that, I never met with anybody with respect to the campaign. I met with someone in my Senate office, in my capacity as a United States senator, with Senate staff to discuss foreign policy or whatever it was that he was discussing.

I think the Senator discussed this in his media conference last week Thursday. So I don't -- I guess the issue is with respect to what was talked about, I don't know. That's up to him.

But I do think the way he described it was very clear that he believed he was answering Senator Franken's question with respect to activity involving the campaign and attempts to -- as I said to Sara, like this whole idea of influencing the election. Meeting with an ambassador about an area of foreign policy in his Senate office with his Senate staff was clearly not a campaign event.

Q Okay, so now on the leak issue. You're talking about Congress doing an investigation. But some of these leaks are coming from top officials, people who know insider information. What has the President said to his staff as it relates to the leaks in reference to trying to find out himself, not just from top-level people, what has he said to people about the leaks, about trying to stop it, or trying to find out what's happening?

MR. SPICER: Well, I think the President made clear in his comments when he stood before you all a couple weeks ago that his main concern is national security. That's -- when he keeps talking about the leaks, his concern is the leaks that damage and undermine national security, the leaks that deal with classified and other information. That's what his main concern is. And I don't think -- that's not a White House issue. That's sort of -- that is an issue that is beyond the White House. We're not --

Q Other leaks don't matter, but the national --

MR. SPICER: No, no, I think -- it's not that other leaks don't matter. I think his issue that he has talked about and his concern is the leaks of national security. It's not that he's saying, other leaks are okay.

But I think the ones that threaten our public safety or potentially put our country in harm are the ones that he really cares about.

Peter.

Q I have a question. I'm sorry. This President reached out to former President Obama several times when he was President.

MR. SPICER: That's right.

Q They started building something. There was a bridge. Now some people in the Obama camp are considering these conversations about, or these tweets crazy. And the question is now: With this divide between these two, and President Trump may need to one day reach back to former President Obama, how do you think that will play out? Do you think that these two will never come back together again? Is this something he could have talked to him about before he went on Twitter? There is now a chasm. There's a divide that wasn't there a couple of weeks ago.

MR. SPICER: Okay, well, there was a divide during the campaign, too. I don't think that -- I think that, as you saw, and the President has made it very clear, he said some things about the President. And the President said stuff -- about the campaign. I think they came together for the good of the country. And in cases where they can come together for a common good and to talk about what's in the country's best interests, they will.

But I understand your point. I do. I just think the President --



Q Did he burn a bridge?

Q Hold up, hold on.

MR. SPICER: Thank you. But I think that they'll be just fine. So go ahead. That's you.

Q Oh, good.

MR. SPICER: Yes.

Q Hi, Sean.

MR. SPICER: Hi, Julie. You've been very patient.

Q Yes, I have. Thanks.

MR. SPICER: I think it's your first time.

Q It is, yes.

MR. SPICER: Well, welcome. See how pleasant this is?

Q I was feeling like how can I not get called on my first time? Ten years ago, Bob Levinson disappeared in Iran. And I know the President talked about this a little bit on the campaign trail. Is there anything you can tell us about how the administration is approaching this case? Have they been in communication with his family or any updates on that?

MR. SPICER: I think we put out a statement from the NSC on Friday on this -- Victoria. I think we -- so we have been in communication with his family. I believe they were here -- or we were in touch with them last week. And obviously, we continue to hold out hope. But the administration has been in touch with his family.

Q Sean, the call to Netanyahu, what prompted that?

MR. SPICER: I don't know, Dave. I'll find out. I just know it happened. And I got a little bit of a --

Q As you might know, the Prime Minister is meeting later this week with Vladimir Putin. Did the President and the Prime Minister talk about Syria at all?

MR. SPICER: I don't know. I know that they had a discussion about regional threats, so I don't want to get ahead of this.

David Jackson.



Q Comey did tell people this weekend that President Obama did not order these wiretaps, and he did want the Justice Department to put out that statement. Does President Obama believe --

MR. SPICER: Are you -- like I said, I am not -- wait, so --

Q Does President Trump believe Comey when he says that President Obama did not authorize these wiretaps?

MR. SPICER: My question is, is that I don't think that we've confirmed that Director Comey did say that. I don't -- I'm not aware. Aside from reading stories that cite anonymous sources saying that he did, I'm not aware that that actually happened. So that's the first issue that I think we need to resolve.

Q Well, people we trust did tell us that he did.

MR. SPICER: Well, with all due respect, not you, but I think that we've had a number of reports that I've seen that -- about things that have occurred in the last 40-some-odd days that actually didn't occur, but anonymous sources said they did.

Peter Alexander.

Q Sean, to be clear, you said earlier as an on-the-record source for the President's wiretapping claims, he referred to the former Attorney General Michael Mukasey. I just want to ask you to clarify if you could because his public comments were on Sunday, a day after the President tweeted about this. And even in his public comments, he said that he based his information "on news reports."

MR. SPICER: Okay. But I'm just saying that he is -- someone asked whether it was an on-the-record comment. And that is on the record.

Q But I was saying, was there an on -- you were being asked was there an on-the-record comment in advance of the President's tweets to which he was basing his information? Did he have anything better than anonymous sources?

MR. SPICER: I don't -- I'm not -- as I said before, I'm not going to get into the elements of that. I'll just -- I'm going to wait until the House and Senate.

Q Really, just on a past comment that the President had made about the suggestion that there were -- or the claim, in fact, that there were 3 million to 5 million people who voted illegally in this country -- he made this claim more than a month ago. I just want to get a sense now on the update on any investigation into that and where it stands, given the explosive nature of such a claim.

MR. SPICER: I think we've touched on this, but he has asked Vice President Pence to lead a task force on this. We have -- I'll get more for you. I know that there's been some discussion with some Secretaries of State and others on some of this. I know you had that issue in Texas come -- last week, and I'm trying to remember the exact nature of it, but there has been now further evidence that people have voted illegally. And I think that one of the things the task force is looking to do is to gather additional information of what -- it's still in the process of getting the task members named.

Q Does the task force, I guess, exist yet? Or is --

MR. SPICER: Yeah, the Vice President has been talking to folks potentially to serve on it, and I know that several Secretaries of State have expressed --

Q It hasn't convened yet, but he's been talking to folks about it.

MR. SPICER: That's correct. That's correct.

Q Sean, two subjects here, following up on the wiretap question. Stepping away from what the President knew or the basis of his tweets, how appropriate is it for a President to make an explosive charge as fact and then send you folks out to step away and say this maybe happened and we should investigate it?

MR. SPICER: Well, again, I think there's two things. One is the President's tweets speak for themselves. We're making that very --

Q But --

MR. SPICER: Hold on. And I think the President has been very clear, as we've stated, that I think there's enough there that we want the House and Senate intelligence to use the resources they do to make sure that they look into this matter. I mean, that's -- there is -- anyway, I do not want to get ahead of where they may go with this or what they may look at, but I'm going to leave it to them. If we start down the rabbit hole of discussing some of this stuff I think then we end up in a very difficult place.

I look forward to seeing you guys tomorrow. If you can bring your cameras --

Q Sean, housekeeping-wise, you said that we'd get some clarification on a number of questions -- to all of us. If you could do that today through the pool --

MR. SPICER: Yeah, I think we can try to do that through the pool. If not, we'll write everything -- we generally write down everything and try to get back to the reporters. So I will have the team -- and then get it out by the pool.

Q Will we be hearing from the President this week, since we didn't today?

MR. SPICER: I'm sure at some point we'll do either something that we -- a photo spray or something. I think that we have a pretty good track record of making the President available to folks.

Q -- kind of unusual.

MR. SPICER: What's unusual?

Q To not --

MR. SPICER: It's Monday.

Q Exactly.

Q But you see -- everything is closed. Normally we have a photo spray or something.

MR. SPICER: I just -- I think that's -- don't give me this "normally we do." I made it very clear at the beginning of this, April, that we have some things on camera, some off. Last week the President traveled two days, he had the joint session. We briefed every single day --

Q It's not about us, it's about the American public seeing their President. And we have to -  
-

MR. SPICER: Wait, hold on. Seeing their President. The guy is in meetings all day. I'm trying -- how many times did you complain about the President --

Q He signed executive orders. You had us -- last week you said --

MR. SPICER: Hold on, hold on. He signed an executive order. I mean, this is a President, when it comes to accessibility and allowing the press access, I think I've heard from several of you -- we have gone above and beyond allowing the press into events, into sprays. We've had greater access.

So, with all due respect, I mean that's not been the case. One day out of the last 41 or 40, whatever it's been -- but I think this President has been extremely accessible, extremely transparent, as far as -- he signed an executive order this morning that we then put all three Cabinet Secretaries that were relevant to implement this out.

I'll be out tomorrow. I think we have an opportunity -- look, I made it very clear from the beginning of this that we'd have a briefing every day. We've gagged every day, we've made ourselves available to you. So, with all due respect, that's not a very accurate assessment of how we've been acting.

Thanks. I'll see you guys tomorrow.

END

2:50 P.M. EST



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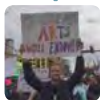


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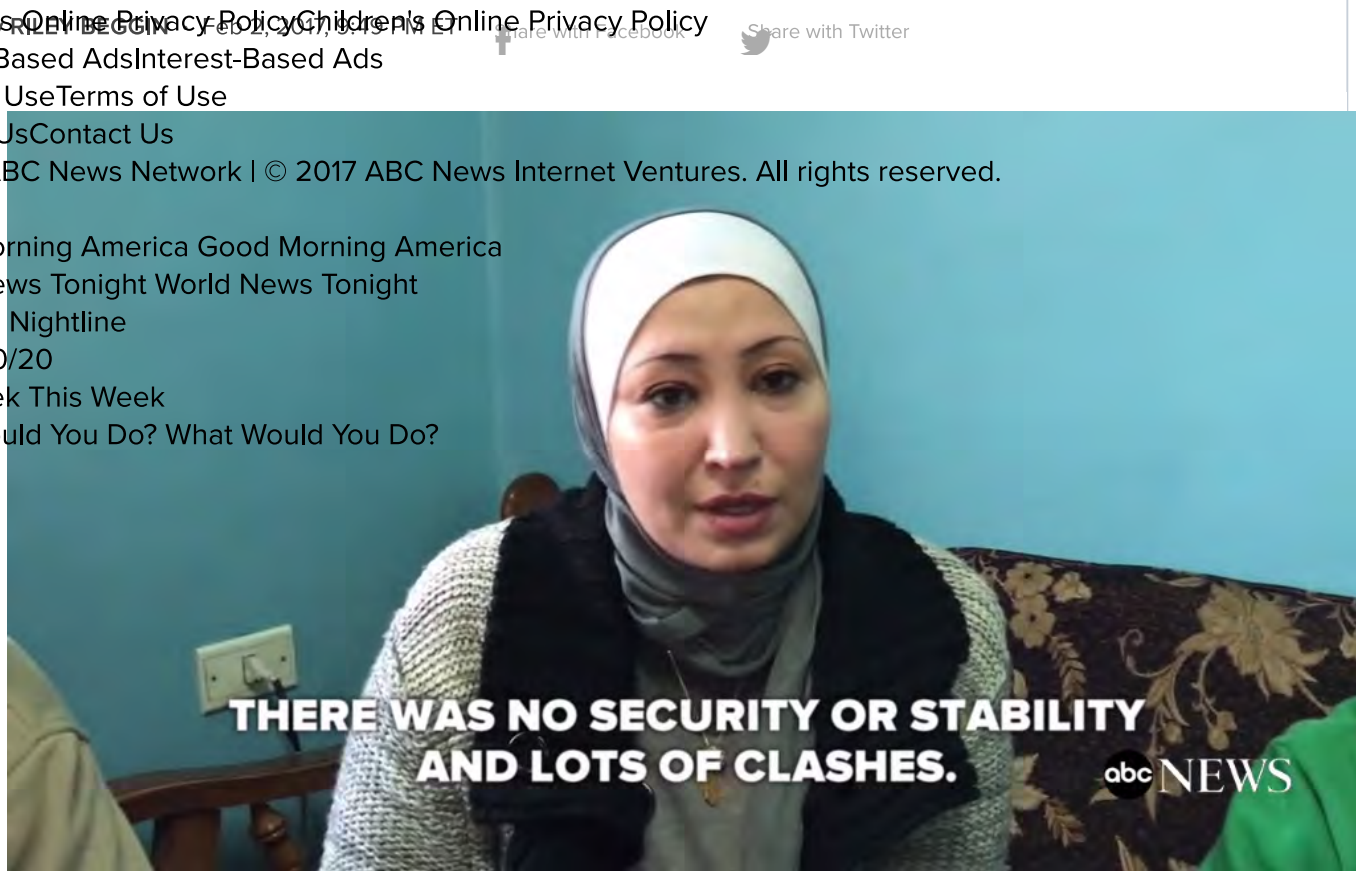
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# Protesters Caused 'Only Disruption' Surrounding Immigration Order: White House Adviser



Nicholas Kamm/AFP/Getty Images

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White House Senior Adviser Stephen Miller told ABC News' "Powerhouse Politics" podcast that "the only disruption" that resulted from the administration's controversial immigration executive order "was a disruption created by protesters."

Miller also said he believes that in the two weeks of the Trump administration "there hasn't been a low point."



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Protesters caused 'Only Disruption' Surrounding Immigration Order, White House Adviser ABC News  
Miller  
told ABC News' Jonathan Karl and Rick Klein on the "Powerhouse Politics"  
podcast that the majority of the country welcomes the change.  
"For them, those kinds of actions are just the first steps in bringing some kind  
of sanity to how we approach immigration policy in the United States of  
America," Miller said.  
Critics have claimed that the way the order was implemented caused chaos  
and confusion among the public, but Miller said "the reality is that for virtually  
the entire country the only disruption that occurred was a disruption created  
by protesters."  
In the wake of the order's signing, protests erupted at airports around the  
country and there was confusion about how the order should be implemented.  
In the first 72 hours after the order was signed, 721 travelers from the affected  
countries were not allowed to enter the U.S.  
More than a dozen lawsuits ensued and deportations resulting from the order  
were stayed on the order of a Brooklyn federal judge.  
The Trump administration has since clarified the executive order, saying it  
does not apply to those with green cards and that some dual citizens, which  
appeared to be banned for 90 days, would be allowed to enter.  
Miller said that the order went through "a months-long drafting process," and  
that it was an "extremely carefully thought out, carefully implemented  
proposal." He said that any issues of implementation can be chalked up to the  
size of the bureaucracy.  
According to Miller, the administration felt there was a need for immediate  
action and that a review like this has been long overdue.  
"If you believe as we do that the next Trojan horse is just waiting to come in,  
then you have an obligation to act quickly and expeditiously," he said.  
Trump's advisers and cabinet picks have been a source of media attention in  
the wake of the inauguration, including chief strategist Steve Bannon, who  
was featured on the cover of a recent issue of TIME Magazine. However, Miller  
said that it's Trump -- and Trump alone -- at the reins.  
"The only person who makes decisions here is Donald Trump, and the only  
person whose vision is executed is Donald Trump," Miller said. "It's his vision,  
his policies, his insights."

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By **VERONICA STRACQUALURSI** · Mar 13, 2017, 7:02 PM ET

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# EXHIBIT FF



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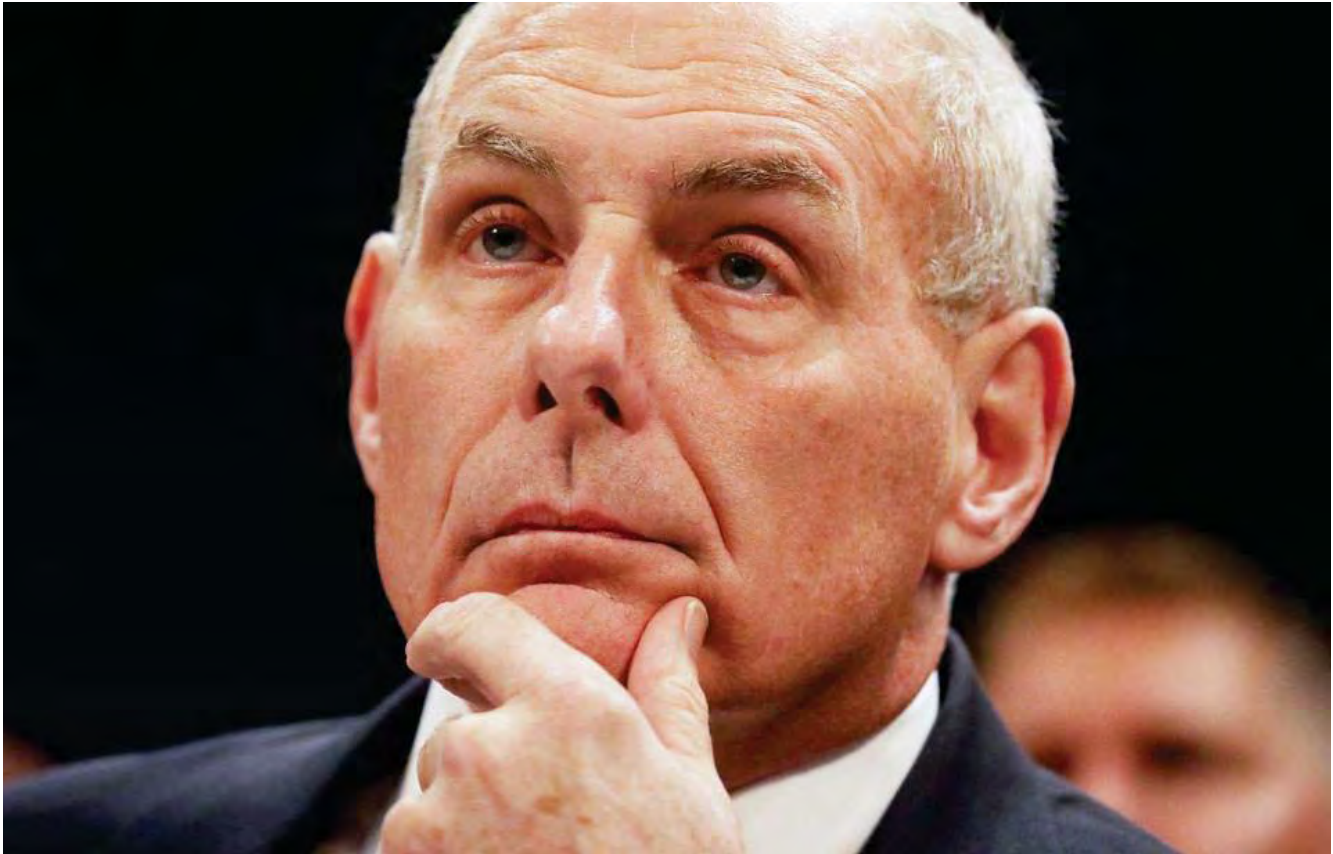
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# EXHIBIT GG



# John Kelly testifies travel ban should have been delayed



MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly said, given a second chance, he might do things differently in rolling out the order.

By Matt Zapotosky | WASHINGTON POST FEBRUARY 07, 2017

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly predicted Tuesday that the Trump administration will prevail in its bid to reinstate an executive order temporarily barring refugees

as well as people from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States and mused that judges might be considering the matter from an “academic,” rather than a national security, perspective.

“Of course, in their courtrooms, they’re protected by people like me,” he said.

Testifying before the House Homeland Security Committee, Kelly forcefully defended President Trump’s executive order. He said that it is “entirely possible” that dangerous people are now entering the country with the order on hold — as Trump has said via Twitter — and that officials might not know about them until it is too late.

“Not until the boom,” he said when asked if he could provide evidence of a dangerous person coming into the country since the ban was suspended.

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But Kelly acknowledged that if he were given a second chance, he might do things differently in rolling out the order. That stands

Channel's Bill O'Reilly that the implementation was "very smooth."

"In retrospect, I should have — this is all on me, by the way — I should have delayed it just a bit, so that I could talk to members of Congress, particularly the leadership of committees like this, to prepare them for what was coming, although I think most people would agree that this has been a topic of President Trump certainly during his campaign and during the transition process," Kelly said.

Kelly later said, though, that most of the confusion is attributable to court orders and occurred not among Customs and Border Protection officers, but protesters in airports.

Kelly's comments came as a federal appeals court panel was preparing to hear oral arguments on whether Trump's ban should be reinstated. The hearing marks a critical juncture for the president's directive, which a lower federal court judge in Washington had ordered suspended last week.

Kelly said that he was not criticizing any judge but that their considerations were "academic" and possibly in a "vacuum."

"I have nothing but respect for our judges, but they live in a different world than I do," he said.



Kelly also cast the Trump directive as a mere “pause” that would allow US officials to assess vetting procedures, and he said they were not contemplating expanding it beyond the seven affected countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

The opposition to the measure is mounting. On Monday, 10 former high-ranking diplomatic and national security officials; nearly 100 Silicon Valley tech companies; more than 280 law professors; a coalition of 16 state or district attorneys general; and a host of civil liberties and other organizations formally lent their support to the legal bid to block Trump’s travel ban.

The high-ranking diplomatic and security officials — among them former secretaries of state John F. Kerry and Madeleine Albright, former CIA director Leon Panetta, former CIA and National Security Agency director Michael V. Hayden — said there was “no national security purpose” for a complete barring of people from the seven affected countries.

“Since September 11, 2001, not a single terrorist attack in the United States has been perpetrated by aliens from the countries named in the Order,” the group said. “Very few attacks on U.S. soil since September 11, 2001, have been traced to foreign nationals at all.”

The appeals court panel will have to consider whether Trump exceeded his authority and violated the First Amendment and federal immigration law, and whether his order imposes irreparable harm on those it affects. The three judges hearing the matter are William C. Canby Jr., who was appointed by President Carter; Judge Richard Clifton, who was appointed by President George W. Bush; and Judge Michelle Taryn Friedland, who was appointed by President Obama.

The states of Washington and Minnesota argued in a filing Monday that reinstating the ban would “unleash chaos again” by “separating families, stranding our university students and faculty, and barring travel.”

Justice Department lawyers countered that noncitizens outside the United States have “no substantive right or basis for judicial review in the denial of a visa at all,” and that, at most, the lower court judge should have limited his ruling to “previously admitted aliens who are temporarily abroad now or who wish to travel and return to the United States in the future.”

After the appeals court rules, either side can ask the Supreme Court to intervene. The Supreme Court, though, remains one justice short, and many see it as ideologically split 4 to 4. A tie would keep in place whatever the appeals court decides.

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# EXHIBIT HH

# Trump to sign new immigration policy after multiple court defeats of travel ban

The justice department plans to rescind the ban and issue a new executive order to eliminate 'erroneous constitutional concerns' after an



The statement contradicted Donald Trump's comments from Thursday, when he lambasted the ninth circuit, calling it 'a bad court' that had made 'a bad decision'. Photograph: Rex/Shutterstock

## Julia Carrie Wong in San Francisco

Thursday 16 February 2017 16.06 EST

Donald Trump plans to rescind his executive order banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries and replace it with a new one, according to a Department of Justice court filing made on Thursday.

“Rather than continuing this litigation, the President intends in the near future to rescind the Order and replace it with a new, substantially revised Executive Order to eliminate what the panel erroneously thought were constitutional concerns,” the justice department wrote in a brief to the ninth circuit court of appeals.

Enforcement of Trump’s executive order banning travel from seven majority-Muslim countries has been suspended since a federal district judge in Seattle issued a temporary restraining order against it. The injunction was upheld by the ninth circuit court of appeals in a 9 February ruling.

The justice department filing argued that the ninth circuit should not reconsider its 9 February ruling against the travel ban but wait until the new order is released.

The filing contradicted Trump’s own statements at an extraordinary press conference on Thursday, when the president lambasted the ninth circuit, calling it “a bad court” that had made “a bad decision”, and stating: “We are appealing that and we are going further.”

Trump later stated that the new executive order would “comprehensively protect our country” and would be “tailored to the decision we got down from the court”.

Trump’s remarks continued his ongoing war of words against the judiciary. “That circuit is in chaos, and that circuit is frankly in turmoil,” he said of the country’s largest appeals court.

He also twice cited a misleading statistic about the ninth circuit’s rate of having its rulings overturned, saying, “I’ve heard 80%. I find that hard to believe. That’s just a number I heard. That they’re overturned 80% of the time.”

The question of how many rulings the ninth circuit has had overturned has become a major talking point in rightwing media. On 9 February, Fox News host Sean Hannity called the ninth circuit “the most liberal court of appeals, the most overturned court in the country”, according to Politifact.

A blogpost by rightwing outlet the Daily Caller put forward the “80% reversal rate at supreme court” figure, citing an analysis by the American Bar

Association.

Both claims about the court are misleading, as fact-checking sites Snopes and Politifact have pointed out. The supreme court only reviews about 0.1% of all appeals court decisions each year. Of the cases it took up, the supreme court did reverse or vacate 80% of cases from the ninth circuit from 1999 to 2008. But those reversals represent a tiny fraction of the ninth circuit's total decisions.

The ninth circuit is just the latest branch of the judiciary to feel the president's ire. He referred to the federal district judge who initially granted the temporary injunction against his executive order as a "so-called judge" on Twitter. During the campaign, he also accused a judge presiding over a case involving his "university" of being biased due to his "Mexican heritage".

Trump said the new executive order would be released sometime next week.

The Washington state attorney general's office, which led the successful suit against the travel ban, tweeted that the justice department's filing was "conceding defeat".

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## Trump travel ban

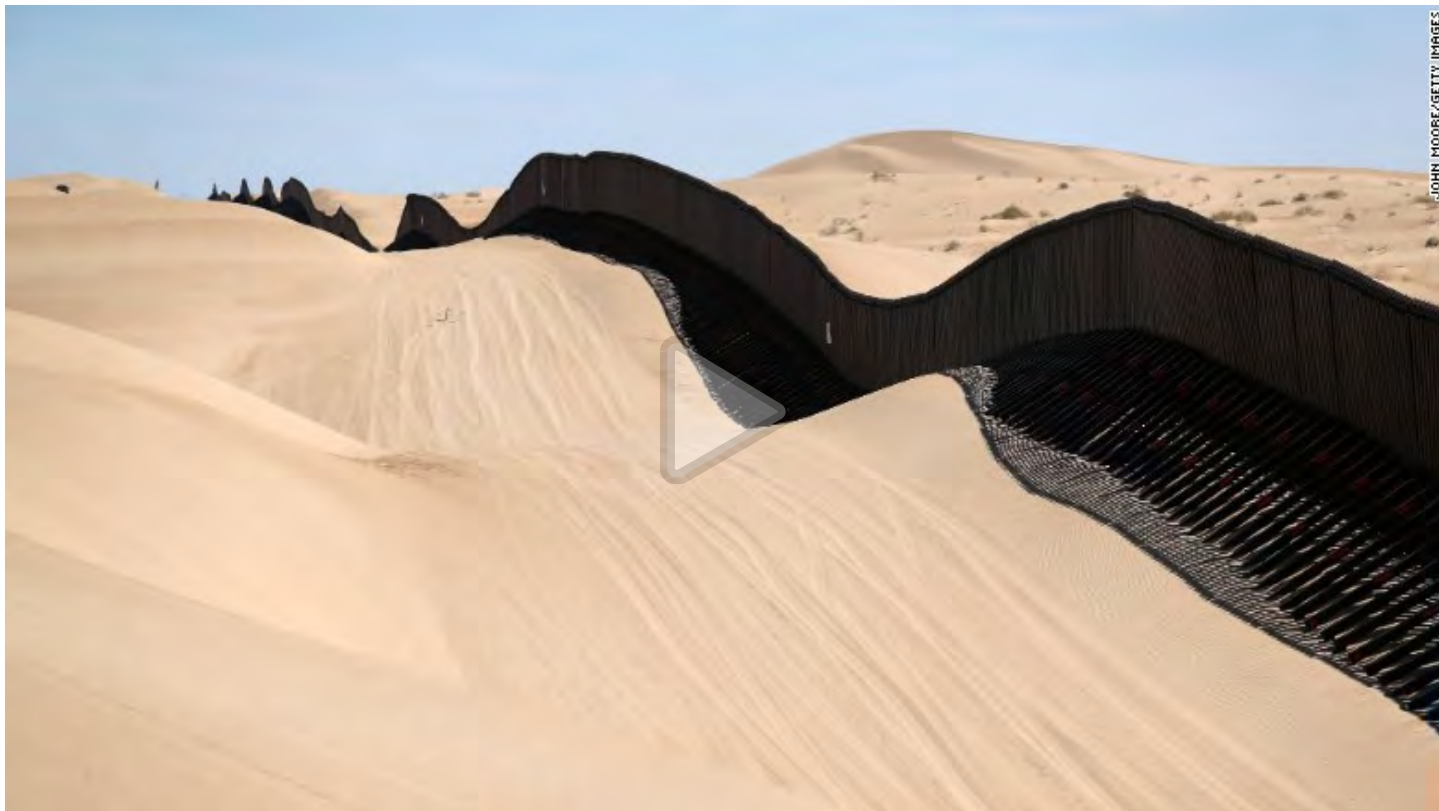
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# EXHIBIT II

# Trump delays new travel ban after well-reviewed speech

By **Laura Jarrett**, **Ariane de Vogue** and **Jeremy Diamond**, CNN

⌚ Updated 6:01 AM ET, Wed March 1, 2017



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### Story highlights

The new travel ban will exclude legal permanent residents and existing visa holders

Two sources also expect that the President will formally revoke the previous executive order

**Washington (CNN)** — President Donald Trump has delayed plans to sign a reworked travel ban in the wake of positive reaction to his first address to Congress, a senior administration official told CNN.

The decision came late Tuesday night as [positive reviews flooded in for Trump's speech](#), which struck a largely optimistic and unifying tone.

Signing the executive order Wednesday, as originally indicated by the White House, would have undercut the favorable coverage. The official didn't deny the positive reception was part of the administration's calculus in pushing back the travel ban announcement.

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The sudden change of plans came as Trump and his top advisers returned to the White House after his address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday night.

Trump's original executive order, signed a week after he took office, banned citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the US and temporarily suspended the entry of all refugees. A federal court issued a temporary stay that halted implementation of the travel ban earlier this month, a decision that was later upheld by a federal appeals court.

The new travel ban will exclude legal permanent residents and existing visa holders from the ban entirely, sources familiar with the plans told CNN earlier Tuesday.

While sources caution that the document has not yet been finalized and is still subject to change, there will be major changes:

- The new executive order will make clear that legal permanent residents (otherwise known as green card holders) are excluded from any travel ban.
- Those with validly issued visas will also be exempt from the ban.
- The new order is expected to revise or exclude language prioritizing the refugee claims of certain religious minorities.

Speaking in Munich, Germany, earlier this month, Department of Homeland Secretary John Kelly promised a "phased-in" approach to minimize disruption this time around.

But what remains to be seen are the other key aspects of the new executive order, especially in terms of refugees, including:

- What happens to the suspension of the refugee program for 120 days?
- Will Syrian nationals still be barred indefinitely?
- Will the cap on the number of refugees change? The first version of the executive order caps it at 50,000 for fiscal year 2017.

Two sources also expect that the President will formally revoke the earlier executive order, despite repeated statements from White House press secretary Sean Spicer that the two orders would co-exist on a "dual track."

The administration could potentially argue that the existing challenges to the original executive order are moot, but the challengers tell CNN the legal battles will likely continue even after the new order is signed.

"Exempting lawful permanent residents and current visa holders will not cure the core legal problem -- that the ban was motivated by religious discrimination, as evidenced by the President's repeated statements calling for a Muslim ban," ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt explained. "That discriminatory taint cannot be removed simply by eliminating a few words or clever tinkering by lawyers."

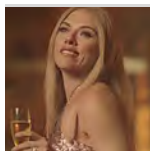
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# EXHIBIT JJ

# Family of Portland's bomb suspect, Mohamed Mohamud, fled chaos in Somalia for new life in America



By **Lynne Terry** | [The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

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on December 04, 2010 at 8:00 PM, updated December 05, 2010 at 9:46 AM

The suspect in the foiled Portland bomb plot, Mohamed Mohamud, was born into chaos, his family fleeing a bloody civil war in Somalia to a crowded refugee camp in Kenya. They left behind a comfortable city lifestyle, scrambled for survival, then eventually were reunited in the United States with hope for a new start.

Born in 1991, Mohamud was their golden son.

The boy's father, Osman Barre, was a professor of computer engineering with a knack for languages. His mother, Mariam Barre, was a businesswoman who worked in banking. In their flight for safety, with boatloads of refugees pouring into Kenya, they were separated, with the father ending up in a sprawling refugee camp and the mother and baby stranded behind.

For more than 18 months, Barre had no idea whether they were alive.

(Related story: [Portland bomb plot case likely to serve as primer on entrapment, FBI sting issues](#))

But once he reached Portland, he never gave up searching for them as he melded into American life.

Friends and associates say rarely have they known such wonderful parents, calling them intelligent, persevering and giving.

But now, they say, nearly two decades after fleeing the bloodshed in Mogadishu, the family is again facing wrenching despair: Their 19-year-old son is accused of planning to detonate a weapon of mass destruction in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square on Nov. 26.

In early 1992, Osman Barre fled **Mogadishu** with 21 members of his extended family to the Utange refugee camp outside **Mombasa, Kenya**, which sits on the Indian Ocean. The camp, which grew to 40,000 refugees, taxed international officials as they tried feed everyone. Barre pitched in as well, teaching United Nations officials to speak Somali.

The United States was one of the countries offering asylum. The family, with no kin in the U.S., gained the sponsorship of several churches in the Portland area.

After 18 months in the camp, the 22 Somalis arrived at Portland International Airport at midnight on Oct. 27, 1993.

"It was our responsibility to help them find a place to live, get to appointments and get settled," said Sylvia Eagan, then pastor at the **Peace Church of the Brethren** in Southeast Portland. "Only four of five of them spoke any English."



It didn't take long for her to appreciate Barre and the rest of the family as remarkable human beings.

"I can't say enough about what wonderful people they are," Eagan said. "They went through a very hard time."

Eagan and Eileen Wilson, another member of the church, found the family temporary housing in Southeast Portland, helped them get food stamps, taught them to ride the bus and steered them to free English lessons for immigrants

Barre, who was 32, scrambled to find work. A former professor at **Mogadishu University** who speaks five languages, he got a job on the floor of a bottling plant. But he kept searching for a position that matched his skills and education.

"He's an intelligent man," Eagan said. "He was very willing to do whatever he needed to do to start at the bottom and work up.

Regularly, he would go to Eagan's house to call a contact near the refugee camp, trying to track down his 21-year-old wife and son. For months, he didn't know whether they were alive.

"He wanted very badly for them to come," Wilson said. "He was going to do whatever it took to get her here."

He also thought about others.

Wilson said that one time when they were chatting about their lives she casually mentioned that the fence in her backyard was falling apart.

The following Saturday he showed up on her doorstep with other members of his family to fix it.

"They tore down the old fence," Wilson said. "They took me to buy the lumber. They made a new fence in the afternoon. And then they asked, 'Now what else can we do?'"

They all dug some flowerbeds together.

"I thought how blessed I am to have these people in my life," she said. "I've always thought that Osman was one of the most stellar people that I know."

\*\*\*

Around 1995, Barre was hired as an engineer at Intel. Then there was more good news: His wife and son were coming to Portland.

Eagan, who took him to the airport, said Barre was a bundle of joyful nerves.

Mohamed Mohamud, about 5 years old when he emerged from the plane, was shy around his father.

"Osman was overjoyed to have them with him again," Eagan said. "He was very proud of his son and his daughter, who was born the first year after his wife arrived."

Mohamud was a quiet, polite child.

"He kissed my hand every time he saw me," Wilson said. "He would take his shoes off and take my hands and kiss me."

The family settled into life in Beaverton, home to a large community of Somali immigrants. Mariam Barre, gracious and intelligent, quickly learned English, Eagan said, landing a job at a company that contracts with the U.S. Postal Service.

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Mohamud, who has a different surname from his father which is typical in Somalia, went to **Markham Elementary** and **Jackson Middle** schools in Portland. At Jackson, where he was called Mo Mo or Mo squared, he had an easy smile, quick joke and enthusiasm for basketball, friends say.

Many of his middle school buddies attended **Wilson High School** but Mohamud, whose family moved a lot, attended **Westview** in the **Beaverton School District**.

"He seemed like a cool kid to me," said Alexander Archield, a Westview classmate who played basketball with Mohamud at lunch. "He had a nice little shot and he hustled around a bit."

During high school, he was known as a class clown, who chatted about sports and chased after girls.

One time he bet a classmate, James Hickey, that he could get the phone number of one girl.

"He bet me \$10 he could get her number by the end of the day," Hickey said. "That never happened. He still owes me \$10."

Mohamud also skipped classes, recording songs on school computers.

"I remember him always being in the media studies room," Hickey said. "He'd be rapping or trying to rap. I thought it was kind of funny."

He'd tell friends he was from Brooklyn and sometimes wore camouflage jackets.

"He got his work done but not until the last minute, said Michael Cornea, a Westview classmate. "He liked goofing off."

Friends say he buckled down as a sophomore.

"He had a whole new perspective on life," Hickey said. "Everything was really serious. He was getting straight As. In his freshman year, he was immature. At times, disrespectful. Talking back."

As a sophomore, Mohamud started thinking about jihad, he later told the FBI, according to court documents.

Sometimes the teen prayed with Muslim classmates in a space set aside for them at Westview.

"We were allowed to take 10 minutes out," said Aniq Tanwir, a student from Pakistan, who played basketball with Mohamud.

"I remember him as a pretty normal kid," Tanwir said. "He was always upbeat."

But Mohamud went through extreme phases, bouncing from being a party boy to a pious teen. At times he advocated his religion, saying it was the best in the world.

Cornea said he tried to convert friends.

"He would always talk about religious politics" in the Middle East and Afghanistan, Cornea said. "He wanted to push his point of view that Islam should be taken up by everyone."

Although Mohamud had a wide circle of friends from a wide range of backgrounds, the closest were Muslim immigrants, schoolmates say.

He didn't talk much about his family, who embraced American life while maintaining relationships in the Somali community. Like other practicing Muslims, they observed Ramadan, attended Friday prayers and didn't eat pork, Eagan said.

Mohamud wasn't known for being anti-American.

"He may have joked," Tanwir said, "but I never heard him say anything anti-American."

Others did but didn't think much about it. Mohamud was just another student who appeared to get decent grades and took some demanding classes.

In his junior physics class, students had to give presentations on the workings of a mechanical device.

Several students picked staplers. Mohamud stood in front of the class, discussing the intricacies of a rocket-propelled grenade.

Students were stunned.

"That's what a lot of terrorists were using," said Ross Thoresen, a classmate. "The fact that he's a Muslim and then does (the project) on the RPG" made everyone wonder about him.

"He was nice on the outside," said Wesley Naylor, who saw the RPG presentation, "but you could see that there was something iffy about him."

In his senior year, Mohamud worked on "Wink," Westview's poetry and arts magazine. The spring 2009 issue included a section about funny incidents that happened to students.

"I think that was the one he most heavily contributed to," said Valerie Barlow, a student editor. It was called "Flush my Life."

Mohamud graduated from Westview in June 2009, enrolling that fall at **Oregon State University** as a non-degree student.

"He aspired to study engineering," said Todd Simmons, spokesman for the university.

His father was thrilled, telling friends and acquaintances that his son planned to be an engineer.

"He was very proud of him being such a good student and doing so well," Eagan said.

\*\*\*

In Corvallis, Mohamud quickly became known as a drinker and smoker, with a taste for hookahs and marijuana. He attended parties, danced, told loud jokes and was seen intoxicated in a dormitory, riding the elevator up and down.

In October 2009, he was accused of date rape by a student after late night revelry at the **Tau Kappa Epsilon** fraternity house. The young woman, who drank at least four shots of tequila and four beers, said she blacked out. **Oregon State Police**, who investigated the case, did not pursue charges.

Mohamud kept writing poetry and rap songs, appeared in a play and attended football games. He aspired to write a rap song about the Beavers that would rival "I love my Ducks."

Occasionally, he worshipped at Salman Alfarisi Islamic Center in Corvallis.

"He would come once a month or once every two months," said imam Yosof Wanly. "It was minimal."

About this time, according to the FBI, Mohamud sought to go abroad to train to become an Islamic terrorist. He told undercover agents that his parents stopped him.

Osman and Mariam Barre, who were having problems of their own, separated about a year ago. But they were worried about their son becoming radicalized, said Isgow Mohamed, head of the **Northwest Somali Community Organization** in Portland.

Osman Barre reported his son to the authorities, Mohamed said.

"When you have a feeling that your son will end up dying on the street, you'd rather put him in a jail than on a suicide mission," Mohamed said.

Last June, Mohamud tried to go to Alaska, but was on the no-fly list. He told the FBI that he had a fishing job and had previously wanted to go to Yemen. He also said he wrote a few articles for online Islamic publications supporting jihad.

He attended the spring quarter, which ended in March, but did not sign up for classes again until this past fall.

He dropped out Oct. 6. About that time, he sent a text message to a Westview High School friend, Alex Masak, asking for a place to go and shoot a gun.

"I just kind of ignored it," Masak said.

Although not enrolled in classes, Mohamud was spotted at OSU. Wanly saw him at the campus library about a week and a half before the tree lighting ceremony in **Pioneer Courthouse Square**. He said Mohamud told a group of friends that he was going to Florida and was going to get married.

"Some of his friends cut him off because he was starting to act too weird," Wanly said.

Early in the morning on Black Friday, Mohamud was at **Washington Square** with a group of Muslim students from Corvallis. He appeared to be in a jovial and generous mood, insisting on buying coffee.

The next day he was behind bars, accused of plotting to trigger a vanful explosives.

The news has bewildered and shocked former classmates, friends and associates.

"I was just crushed," said Sylvia Eagan, thinking of Mohamud's father. "I knew how proud he was of his son. Regardless of whether he is found guilty or not, this is a devastating blow for a parent to have their child in this situation. He had big dreams, like all parents do, for his children."

*Staff researcher Lynne Palombo and writers Candice Ruud, Molly Hottle, Wendy Owen, Allan Brettman and Brent Hunsberger contributed to this story.*

-- **Lynne Terry**

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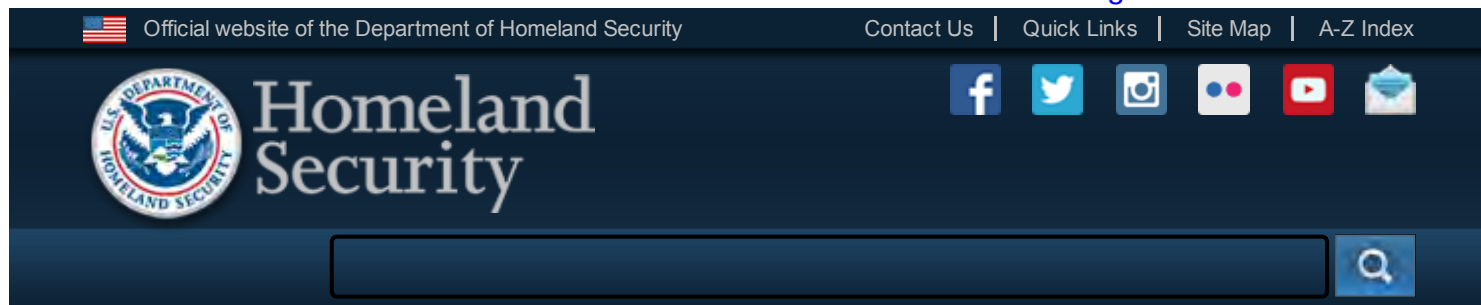
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# EXHIBIT KK

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# Q&A: Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry To The United States

**Release Date:** March 6, 2017

March 6, 2017 11:30 a.m. EST

Office of Public Affairs

Contact: 202-282-8010

## Q1. Who is subject to the suspension of entry under the Executive Order?

Per the Executive Order, foreign nationals from Sudan, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen, who are outside the United States and who did not have a valid visa at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on January 27, 2017, and do not have a valid visa on the effective date of this order are not eligible to enter the United States while the temporary suspension remains in effect. Thus any individual who had a valid visa either on January 27, 2017 (prior to 5:00 PM) or holds a valid visa on the effective date of the Executive Order is not barred from seeking entry.

## Q2. Will “in-transit” travelers within the scope of the Executive Order be denied entry into the United States and returned to their country of origin?

Those individuals who are traveling on valid visas and arrive at a U.S. port of entry will still be permitted to seek entry into the United States. All foreign nationals traveling with a visa must continue to satisfy all requirements for entry, including demonstrating that they are admissible. Additional information on applying for admission to the United States is available on [CBP.gov. \(https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/applying-admission-united-states\)](https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/applying-admission-united-states)

## Q3. I am a national from one of the six affected countries currently overseas and in possession of a valid visa, but I have no prior travel to the United States. Can I travel to the United States?

Per the Executive Order, foreign nationals from Sudan, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen who have valid visas will not be affected by this Executive Order. No visas will be revoked solely based on this Executive Order.



Q4. I am presently in the United States in possession of a valid single entry visa but I am a national of one of the six impacted countries. Can I travel abroad and return to the United States?

Regardless of the Executive Order, your visa is not valid for multiple entries into the United States. While the Executive Order does not apply to those within the United States and your travel abroad is not limited, a valid visa or other document permitting you to travel to and seek admission to the United States is still required for any subsequent entry to the United States.

Q5. I am presently in the United States in possession of a valid multiple entry visa but am a national of one of the six affected countries, can I travel abroad and return to the United States?

Yes. Individuals within the United States with valid multiple entry visas on the effective date of the order are eligible for travel to and from the United States, provided the visa remains valid and the traveler is otherwise admissible. All foreign nationals traveling with a visa must satisfy all admissibility requirements for entry. Additional information on applying for admission to

the United States is available on [CBP.gov](https://www.cbp.gov).

(<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/applying-admission-united-states>)

Q6. I am from one of the six countries, currently in the United States in possession of a valid visa and have planned overseas travel. My visa will expire while I am overseas, can I return to the United States?

Travelers must have a valid visa to travel to the United States, regardless of the Executive Order. Travelers who do not have a valid visa due to its expiration while abroad must obtain a new valid visa prior to returning to the United States.

Q7. Will the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State (DOS) be revoking the visas of persons ineligible to travel under the revised Executive Order?

Visas will not be revoked solely as a result of the Executive Order. The Department of State has broad authority under Section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to revoke visas.

## Q8. What is the process for overseas travelers affected by the Executive Order to request a waiver?

Waivers for overseas travelers without a valid U.S. visa will be adjudicated by the Department of State in conjunction with a visa application.

## Q9. How are returning refugees and asylees affected by the Executive Order?

Returning refugees and asylees, i.e., individuals who have already been granted asylum or refugee status in the United States, are explicitly excepted from this Executive Order. As such, they may continue to travel consistent with existing requirements.

## Q10. Are first-time arrival refugees with valid /travel documents allowed to travel to the United States?

Yes, but only refugees, regardless of nationality, whose travel was already formally scheduled by the Department of State, are permitted to travel to the United States and seek admission. The Department of State will have additional information.

## Q11. Will unaccompanied minors within the scope of the Executive

## Order be denied boarding and or denied entry into the United States?

The Executive Order applies to those who do not have valid visas. Any individuals, including children, who seek entry to the United States must have a valid visa (or other approved travel document) before travel to the United States. The Secretary of State may issue a waiver on a case-by-case basis when in the national interest of the United States. With such a waiver, a visa may be issued.

## Q12. Is DHS complying with all court orders?

DHS is complying, and will continue to comply, with all court orders in effect.

## Q13. When will the Executive Order be implemented?

The Executive Order is effective at 12:01 A.M., Eastern Standard Time, on March 16, 2017.

## Q14. Will the Executive Order impact Trusted Traveler Program membership?

No. Currently, CBP does not have reciprocal agreements for a Trusted Traveler Program with any of the countries designated in the Executive Order.

## Q15. When will CBP issue guidance to both the field and airlines regarding the Executive Order?

CBP will issue guidance and contact stakeholders to ensure timely implementation consistent with the terms of the Executive Order.

## Q16. Will first-time arrivals with valid immigrant visas be allowed to travel to the U.S.?

Yes. Individuals holding valid visas on the effective date of the Executive Order or on January 27, 2017 prior to 5:00 PM do not fall within the scope of the Order.

## Q17. Does this affect travelers at all ports of entry?

Yes, this Executive Order applies to travelers who are applying for entry into the United States at any port of entry—air, land, or sea—and includes preclearance locations.

## Q18. What does granting a waiver to the Executive Order mean? How are waivers applied to individual cases?

Per the Executive Order, the Departments of Homeland Security and State can review individual cases and grant waivers on a

case-by-case basis if a foreign national demonstrates that his or her entry into the United States is in the national interest, will not pose a threat to national security, and that denying entry during the suspension period will cause undue hardship.

Q19. Does “from one of the six countries” mean citizen, national, or born in?

The Executive Order applies to both nationals and citizens of the six countries.

Q20. How does the lawsuit/stay affect DHS operations in implementing this Executive Order?

Questions regarding the application of specific federal court orders should be directed to the Department of Justice.

Q21. Will nationals of the six countries with valid green cards (lawful permanent residents of the United States) be allowed to return to the United States?

Per the Executive Order, the suspension of entry does not apply to lawful permanent residents of the United States.

Q22. Can a dual national who holds nationality with one of the

six designated countries  
traveling with a passport from  
an unrestricted country travel to  
the United States?

The Executive Order exempts from its scope any dual national of one of the six countries when the individual is traveling on a passport issued by a different non-designated country.

Q23. Can a dual national who holds nationality with one of the six designated countries and is currently overseas, apply for an immigrant or nonimmigrant visa to the United States?

Please contact the Department of State for information about how the Executive Order applies to visa applicants.

Q24. Are international students, exchange visitors, and their dependents from the six countries (such as F, M, or J visa holders) included in the Executive Order? What kind of guidance is being given to

## foreign students from these countries legally in the United States?

The Executive Order does not apply to individuals who are within the United States on the effective date of the Order or to those individuals who hold a valid visa. Visas which were provisionally revoked solely as a result of the enforcement of Executive Order 13769 are valid for purposes of administering this Executive Order. Individuals holding valid F, M, or J visas may continue to travel to the United States on those visas if they are otherwise valid.

Please contact the State Department for information about how the Executive Order applies to visa applicants.

## Q25. What happens to international students, exchange visitors or their dependents from the six countries, such as F, M or J visa holders if their visa expires while the Executive Order is in place and they have to depart the country?

The Executive Order does not affect F, M, or J visa holders if they currently have a valid visa on the effective date or held a valid visa on January 27, 2017 prior to the issuance of the Executive Order. With that said, travelers must have a valid visa to travel to the United States, regardless of the Executive Order. Travelers whose visa expires after the effective date of the Executive Order must obtain a new, valid visa to return to the United States.



## Q26. Can U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) continue refugee interviews?

The Departments of Homeland Security and State will conduct interviews as appropriate and consistent with the Executive Order. However, the Executive Order suspends decisions on applications for refugee status, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State jointly determine, on a case-by-case basis, that the entry of an individual as a refugee is in the national interest and would not pose a threat to the security or welfare of the United States.

## Q27. Can the exception for refugee admission be used for Refugee/Asylee Relative Petitions (Form I-730) cases where a family member is requesting a beneficiary follow to join?

No. Individuals who already have valid visas or travel documents that permit them to travel to the United States are exempt from the Executive Order. To the extent that an individual does not yet have such documents, please contact the Department of State.

## Q28. Does the Executive Order apply to those currently being

## adjudicated for naturalization or adjustment of status?

USCIS will continue to adjudicate Applications for Naturalization (Form N-400) and Applications to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485) and grant citizenship consistent with existing practices.

## Q29. Will landed immigrants of Canada affected by the Executive Order be eligible for entry to the United States?

Landed immigrants of Canada who hold passports from one of the six countries are eligible to apply for a visa, and coordinate a waiver, at a location within Canada.

## Q30. Has CBP issued clear guidance to CBP officers at ports of entry regarding the Executive Order?

CBP has and will continue to issue any needed guidance to the field with respect to this Executive Order.

## Q31. What coordination is being done between CBP and the carriers?

CBP has been and will remain in continuous communication with the airlines through CBP regional carrier liaisons. In addition, CBP

will hold executive level calls with airlines in order to provide guidance, answer questions, and address concerns.

## Q32. What additional screening will nationals of restricted countries (as well as any visa applications) undergo as a result of the Executive Order?

In making admission and visa eligibility determinations, DHS and DOS will continue to apply all appropriate security vetting procedures.

## Q33. Why is a temporary suspension warranted?

The Executive Order signed on March 6, 2017, allows for the proper review and establishment of standards to prevent terrorist or criminal infiltration by foreign nationals. The Executive Order protects the United States from countries compromised by terrorism and ensures a more rigorous vetting process. Protecting the American people is the highest priority of our Government and this Department.

Congress and the Obama Administration designated these six countries as countries of concern due to the national security risks associated with their instability and the prevalence of terrorist fighters in their territories. The conditions in the six designated countries present a recognized threat, warranting additional scrutiny of their nationals seeking to travel to and enter the United States. In order to ensure that the U.S. Government can conduct a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the national security risks, the Executive Order imposes a 90-day suspension on entry to the United States of nationals of those countries.

Based on commitments from the Government of Iraq, the suspension of entry in this Executive Order will not apply to nationals of Iraq. Iraq has taken steps to increase their cooperation with the United States in the vetting of Iraqi nationals and as such it was determined that a temporary suspension is not warranted.

DHS will faithfully execute the immigration laws and the President's Executive Order, and will treat all of those we encounter humanely and with professionalism.

## Q34. Why is a suspension of the refugee program warranted?

Some of those who have entered the United States as refugees have also proved to be threats to our national security. For example, in October 2014, an individual admitted to the United States as a refugee from Somalia, and who later became a naturalized U.S. citizen was sentenced to 30 years in prison for attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction in connection with a plot to set off a bomb at a Christmas tree-lighting ceremony in Portland, Oregon. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has reported that approximately 300 persons who entered the United States as refugees are currently the subjects of counterterrorism investigations.

## Q35. How were the six countries designated in the Executive Order selected?

The six countries, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, had already been identified as presenting concerns about terrorism and travel to the United States. Specifically, the suspension applies to countries referred to in, or designated under—except Iraq—section 217(a)(12) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. § 1187(a)(12). In that provision Congress restricted use of the Visa Waiver Program by dual nationals of, and aliens recently present

in, (A) Syria and Iraq, (B) any country designated by the Secretary of State as a state sponsor of terrorism (currently Iran, Syria, and Sudan), and (C) any other country designated as a country of concern by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence. In 2016, the former Secretary of Homeland Security designated Libya, Somalia, and Yemen as additional countries of concern regarding aliens recently present in those countries.

For the purposes of this Executive Order, although Iraq has been previously identified, based on commitments from the Government of Iraq, the suspension of entry in this Executive Order will not apply to nationals of Iraq. However, those who are dual nationals of Iraq and aliens recently present in Iraq continue to have restricted use of the Visa Waiver Program.

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. As such it was determined that a temporary suspension with respect to nationals of Iraq is not warranted at this time.

## Q36. Why was Iraq treated differently in this Executive Order?

The close cooperative relationship between the United States and the democratically-elected Iraqi government, the strong U.S. diplomatic presence in Iraq, the significant presence of U.S. forces in Iraq, and Iraq's commitment to combat ISIS justify different treatment. In particular, those Iraqi government forces that have fought to regain more than half of the territory previously dominated by ISIS have earned special status. In addition, since Executive Order 13769 was issued, the Iraqi government has expressly undertaken steps to provide additional information about its citizens for purposes of our immigration

decisions. Accordingly, it is no longer necessary to include Iraq in the temporary suspension applicable to the other six countries, but visa applications and applications for admission to the United States by Iraqi nationals will be subjected to additional scrutiny to determine if they have connections with ISIS or other terrorist organizations.

## Q37. Are Iraqi nationals subject to the Executive Order? Will they require a waiver to travel to the United States?

This Executive Order does not presently suspend the entry of nationals of Iraq. However, all travelers must have a valid travel document in order to travel to the United States. Admissibility will be determined by a CBP officer upon arrival at a Port of Entry. Please contact the Department of State for information related to visa eligibility and application.

Topics: [Border Security \(/topics/border-security/\)](/topics/border-security/), [Homeland Security Enterprise \(/topics/homeland-security-enterprise/\)](/topics/homeland-security-enterprise/), [Immigration Enforcement \(/topics/immigration-enforcement/\)](/topics/immigration-enforcement/)

Keywords: [immigration \(/keywords/immigration/\)](/keywords/immigration/), [immigration enforcement \(/keywords/immigration-enforcement/\)](/keywords/immigration-enforcement/)

Last Published Date: March 6, 2017

# EXHIBIT LL

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## Iran keeps ban on US visitors in response to Trump order

AFP March 7, 2017

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Iran says it will continue its retaliatory measure of barring US visitors in response to President Donald Trump's updated travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries (AFP Photo/SPENCER PLATT)

Tehran (AFP) - Iran said Tuesday it would continue its retaliatory measure of barring US visitors in response to President Donald Trump's updated travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries.

"Our earlier counter-measure against Trump's previous order is still in place," said deputy foreign minister Majid Takht Ravanchi at a conference entitled "What to do about Trump's America".

"There is no need for a new decision," he said, according to the ISNA news agency.

Iran's foreign ministry announced in January it would ban Americans from entering the country in response to Trump's "insulting" order restricting arrivals from Iran and six other Muslim states.

It called the decision "illegal, illogical and contrary to international rules".

The White House re-issued the ban on Monday -- this time excluding Iraq but still targeting Iranians -- following legal challenges.

Trump's ban was halted by a federal court in February, allowing an Iranian archery team into the US. Iran reciprocated by allowing entry to an American wrestling team for a competition.

Iranians have been the most affected by the ban since more than one million live, work and study in the United States.



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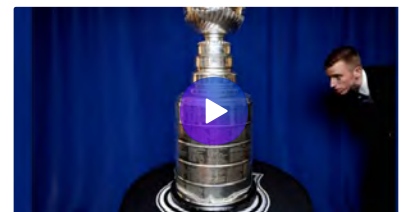
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# EXHIBIT MM

ISSIE LAPOWSKY BUSINESS 12.10.15 3:03 PM

# ONLINE PETITION TO BAN TRUMP IS NOW THE UK'S MOST POPULAR

Donald Trump may be gaining support at home after proposing that the country ban Muslim people from traveling to the US. But across the pond, a petition to ban Donald Trump from traveling to the United Kingdom has just become the most popular petition on the government's website.

Posted just two days ago, the petition has already reached 458,230 signatures and counting. At the time this story was written, it had garnered 7,861 signatures in the last hour alone. That puts the Donald petition ahead of a September petition urging the government to accept more asylum seekers and increase support for refugee migrants in the UK, which led to Parliament's announcement that the country would resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees.

Not that Great Britain doesn't have its own immigration opponents. In third place is a petition to do just the opposite, asking the government to shut down all immigration completely, an idea that has already been struck down by Parliament.

Because the Trump petition has gotten more than 100,000 signatures, the government will now consider debating the issue in Parliament. While banning Trump outright may seem outlandish in the US (though not nearly as outlandish as banning an entire faith group from entering a country whose Constitution protects freedom of religion ... just sayin') there is precedent for this kind of thing in the UK.

The country has banned people for "unacceptable behaviour" in the past, including celebrities like Martha Stewart, Chris Brown, and Mike Tyson. The UK has also banned promoters of hate speech, like Stephen Donald Black, a Ku Klux Klansman and founder of the white supremacist internet group Stormfront, which, incidentally, has had to upgrade its servers thanks to the traffic boost it's getting from Trump-related content.

The UK government, for its part, is already signaling that the Trump ban won't stick.

Either way, it seems Trump is, as ever, undeterred. Though we have to say it's fairly disconcerting to see a presidential candidate making international enemies before he's even gotten the nomination—especially when that enemy is a long time ally.

The United Kingdom is trying hard to disguise their massive Muslim problem. Everybody is wise to what is happening, very sad! Be honest.

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) December 10, 2015

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EMILY DREYFUSS CULTURE 09.14.16 1:34 PM

## WHAT WILL ENSURE YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROTEST IS OVERRUN BY TROLLS?

A hashtag.

*(This post was inspired by the New York Times.)*

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ISSIE LAPOWSKY BUSINESS 05.10.16 8:35 AM

## ULTIMATE TECH BRO PETER THIEL WILL BE A DELEGATE FOR TRUMP

# EXHIBIT NN

# **Response to Emergency Motion Exhibit A**

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

No. 17-35105

STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.	)	
	)	
Plaintiffs-Appellees,	)	
	)	<b>JOINT DECLARATION OF</b>
vs.	)	<b>MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT,</b>
	)	<b>AVRIL D. HAINES</b>
	)	<b>MICHAEL V. HAYDEN</b>
	)	<b>JOHN F. KERRY</b>
	)	<b>JOHN E. McLAUGHLIN</b>
DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the	)	<b>LISA O. MONACO</b>
United States, et al.,	)	<b>MICHAEL J. MORELL</b>
	)	<b>JANET A. NAPOLITANO</b>
Defendants-Appellants.	)	<b>LEON E. PANETTA</b>
	)	<b>SUSAN E. RICE</b>
	)	
	)	
	)	

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We, Madeleine K. Albright, Avril D. Haines, Michael V. Hayden, John F. Kerry, John E. McLaughlin, Lisa O. Monaco, Michael J. Morell, Janet A. Napolitano, Leon E. Panetta, and Susan E. Rice declare as follows:

1. We are former national security, foreign policy, and intelligence officials in the United States Government:
  - a. Madeleine K. Albright served as Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001. A refugee and naturalized American citizen, she served as U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 1993 to 1997 and has been a member of the Central Intelligence Agency External Advisory Board since 2009 and the Defense Policy Board since 2011, in which capacities she has received assessments of threats facing the United States.
  - b. Avril D. Haines served as Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2013 to 2015, and as Deputy National Security Advisor from 2015 to January 20, 2017.
  - c. Michael V. Hayden served as Director of the National Security Agency from 1999 to 2005, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2006 to 2009.
  - d. John F. Kerry served as Secretary of State from 2013 to January 20, 2017.

- e. John E. McLaughlin served as Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2000-2004 and Acting Director of CIA in 2004. His duties included briefing President-elect Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush.
- f. Lisa O. Monaco served as Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism and Deputy National Security Advisor from 2013 to January 20, 2017.
- g. Michael J. Morell served as Acting Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in 2011 and from 2012 to 2013, Deputy Director from 2010 to 2013, and as a career official of the CIA from 1980. His duties included briefing President George W. Bush on September 11, 2001, and briefing President Barack Obama regarding the May 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden.
- h. Janet A. Napolitano served as Secretary of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2013.
- i. Leon E. Panetta served as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 2009-11 and as Secretary of Defense from 2011-13.
- j. Susan E. Rice served as U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations from 2009-13 and as National Security Advisor from 2013 to January 20, 2017.

2. We have collectively devoted decades to combatting the various terrorist threats that the United States faces in a dynamic and dangerous world. We have all held the highest security clearances. A number of us have worked at senior levels in administrations of both political parties. Four of us (Haines, Kerry, Monaco and Rice) were current on active intelligence regarding all credible terrorist threat streams directed against the U.S. as recently as one week before the issuance of the Jan. 27, 2017 Executive Order on “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” (“Order”).

3. We all agree that the United States faces real threats from terrorist networks and must take all prudent and effective steps to combat them, including the appropriate vetting of travelers to the United States. We all are nevertheless unaware of any specific threat that would justify the travel ban established by the Executive Order issued on January 27, 2017. We view the Order as one that ultimately undermines the national security of the United States, rather than making us safer. In our professional opinion, this Order cannot be justified on national security or foreign policy grounds. It does not perform its declared task of “protecting the nation from foreign terrorist entry into the United States.” To the contrary, the Order disrupts thousands of lives, including those of refugees and visa holders all previously vetted by standing procedures that the Administration has not shown to be inadequate. It could do long-term damage to our national security and foreign policy interests, endangering U.S. troops in the field and disrupting counterterrorism and national security partnerships. It will aid ISIL’s propaganda effort and serve its recruitment message by feeding into the narrative that the United States is at war with Islam. It will hinder relationships with the very communities that law enforcement professionals need to address the threat. It will have a damaging humanitarian and economic impact on the lives and jobs of American citizens and residents. And apart from all of these concerns, the Order offends our nation’s laws and values.



4. There is no national security purpose for a total bar on entry for aliens from the seven named countries. Since September 11, 2001, not a single terrorist attack in the United States has been perpetrated by aliens from the countries named in the Order. Very few attacks on U.S. soil since September 11, 2001 have been traced to foreign nationals at all. The overwhelming majority of attacks have been committed by U.S. citizens. The Administration has identified no information or basis for believing there is now a heightened or particularized future threat from the seven named countries. Nor is there any rational basis for exempting from the ban particular religious minorities (e.g., Christians), suggesting that the real target of the ban remains one religious group (Muslims). In short, the Administration offers no reason why it abruptly shifted to group-based bans when we have a tested individualized vetting system developed and implemented by national security professionals across the government to guard the homeland, which is continually re-evaluated to ensure that it is effective.

5. In our professional opinion, the Order will harm the interests of the United States in many respects:

- a. The Order will endanger U.S. troops in the field. Every day, American soldiers work and fight alongside allies in some of the named countries who put their lives on the line to protect Americans. For example, allies who would be barred by the Order work alongside our men and women in Iraq fighting against ISIL. To the extent that the Order bans travel by individuals cooperating against ISIL, we risk placing our military efforts at risk by sending an insulting message to those citizens and all Muslims.
- b. The Order will disrupt key counterterrorism, foreign policy, and national security partnerships that are critical to our obtaining the necessary information sharing and collaboration in intelligence, law enforcement, military, and diplomatic channels to address the threat posed by terrorist groups such as ISIL. The international criticism of the Order has been intense, and it has alienated U.S. allies. It will strain our relationships with partner countries in Europe and the Middle East, on whom we rely for vital counterterrorism cooperation, undermining years of effort to bring them closer. By alienating these partners, we could lose access to the intelligence and resources necessary to fight the root causes of terror or disrupt attacks launched from abroad, before an attack occurs within our borders.
- c. The Order will endanger intelligence sources in the field. For current information, our intelligence officers may rely on human sources in some of the countries listed. The Order breaches faith with those very sources, who have risked much or all to keep Americans safe – and whom our officers had promised always to protect with the full might of our government and our people.
- d. Left in place, the Executive Order will likely feed the recruitment narrative of ISIL and other extremists that portray the United States as at war with Islam. As government officials, we took every step we could to counter violent extremism. Because of the Order's disparate impact against Muslim travelers and immigrants, it feeds ISIL's narrative and sends the wrong message to the Muslim community here at home and all over the world: that

the U.S. government is at war with them based on their religion. The Order may even endanger Christian communities, by handing ISIL a recruiting tool and propaganda victory that spreads their message that the United States is engaged in a religious war.

- e. The Order will disrupt ongoing law enforcement efforts. By alienating Muslim-American communities in the United States, it will harm our efforts to enlist their aid in identifying radicalized individuals who might launch attacks of the kind recently seen in San Bernardino and Orlando.
- f. The Order will have a devastating humanitarian impact. When the Order issued, those disrupted included women and children who had been victimized by actual terrorists. Tens of thousands of travelers today face deep uncertainty about whether they may travel to or from the United States: for medical treatment, study or scholarly exchange, funerals or other pressing family reasons. While the Order allows for the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to agree to admit travelers from these countries on a case-by-case basis, in our experience it would be unrealistic for these overburdened agencies to apply such procedures to every one of the thousands of affected individuals with urgent and compelling needs to travel.
- g. The Order will cause economic damage to American citizens and residents. The Order will affect many foreign travelers, particularly students, who annually inject hundreds of billions into the U.S. economy, supporting well over a million U.S. jobs. Since the Order issued, affected companies have noted its adverse impacts on many strategic economic sectors, including defense, technology, medicine, culture and others.

6. As a national security measure, the Order is unnecessary. National security-based immigration restrictions have consistently been tailored to respond to: (1) specific, credible threats based on individualized information, (2) the best available intelligence and (3) thorough interagency legal and policy review. This Order rests not on such tailored grounds, but rather, on (1) general bans (2) not supported by any new intelligence that the Administration has claimed, or of which we are aware, and (3) not vetted through careful interagency legal and policy review. Since the 9/11 attacks, the United States has developed a rigorous system of security vetting, leveraging the full capabilities of the law enforcement and intelligence communities. This vetting is applied to travelers not once, but multiple times. Refugees receive the most thorough vetting of any traveler to the United States, taking on the average more than a year. Successive administrations have continually worked to improve this vetting through robust information-sharing and data integration to identify potential terrorists without resorting to a blanket ban on all aliens and refugees. Because various threat streams are constantly mutating, as government officials, we sought continually to improve that vetting, as was done in response to particular threats identified by U.S. intelligence in 2011 and 2015. Placing additional restrictions on individuals from certain countries in the visa waiver program –as has been done on occasion in the past – merely allows for more individualized vettings before individuals with particular passports are permitted to travel to the United States.

7. In our professional opinion, the Order was ill-conceived, poorly implemented and ill-explained. The “considered judgment” of the President in the prior cases where courts have

deferred was based upon administrative records showing that the President’s decision rested on cleared views from expert agencies with broad experience on the matters presented to him. Here, there is little evidence that the Order underwent a thorough interagency legal and policy processes designed to address current terrorist threats, which would ordinarily include a review by the career professionals charged with implementing and carrying out the Order, an interagency legal review, and a careful policy analysis by Deputies and Principals (at the cabinet level) before policy recommendations are submitted to the President. We know of no interagency process underway before January 20, 2017 to change current vetting procedures, and the repeated need for the Administration to clarify confusion after the Order issued suggest that that Order received little, if any advance scrutiny by the Departments of State, Justice, Homeland Security or the Intelligence Community. Nor have we seen any evidence that the Order resulted from experienced intelligence and security professionals recommending changes in response to identified threats.

8. The Order is of unprecedented scope. We know of no case where a President has invoked his statutory authority to suspend admission for such a broad class of people. Even after 9/11, the U.S. Government did not invoke the provisions of law cited by the Administration to broadly bar entrants based on nationality, national origin, or religious affiliation. In past cases, suspensions were limited to particular individuals or subclasses of nationals who posed a specific, articulable threat based on their known actions and affiliations. In adopting this Order, the Administration alleges no specific derogatory factual information about any particular recipient of a visa or green card or any vetting step omitted by current procedures.

9. Maintaining the district court’s temporary restraining order while the underlying legal issues are being adjudicated would not jeopardize national security. It would simply preserve the status quo ante, still requiring that individuals be subjected to all the rigorous legal vetting processes that are currently in place. Reinstating the Executive Order would wreak havoc on innocent lives and deeply held American values. Ours is a nation of immigrants, committed to the faith that we are all equal under the law and abhor discrimination, whether based on race, religion, sex, or national origin. As government officials, we sought diligently to protect our country, even while maintaining an immigration system free from intentional discrimination, that applies no religious tests, and that measures individuals by their merits, not stereotypes of their countries or groups. Blanket bans of certain countries or classes of people are beneath the dignity of the nation and Constitution that we each took oaths to protect. Rebranding a proposal first advertised as a “Muslim Ban” as “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” does not disguise the Order’s discriminatory intent, or make it necessary, effective, or faithful to America’s Constitution, laws, or values.

10. For all of the foregoing reasons, in our professional opinion, the January 27 Executive Order does not further – but instead harms – sound U.S. national security and foreign policy.

Respectfully submitted,

**s/MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT\***

**s/AVRIL D. HAINES**

**s/MICHAEL V. HAYDEN**

**s/JOHN F. KERRY**

**s/JOHN E. McLAUGHLIN**

**s/LISA O. MONACO**

**s/MICHAEL J. MORELL**

**s/JANET A. NAPOLITANO**

**s/LEON E. PANETTA**

**s/SUSAN E. RICE**

\*All original signatures are on file with Harold Hongju Koh, Rule of Law Clinic, Yale Law School, New Haven, CT. 06520-8215 203-432-4932

We declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. [Individual signature pages follow]

EXECUTED this 5th day of February, 2017

*Madeline Albright*

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MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT

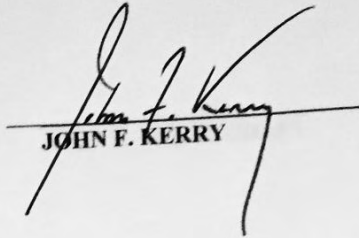
EXHIBIT D this 5th day of February, 2017

  
AVRIL D. HAINES

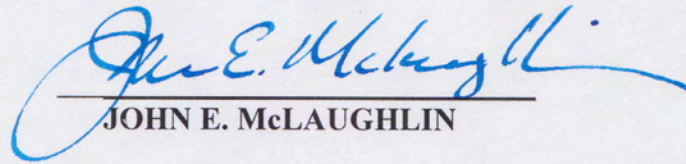
EXECUTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

  
MICHAEL V. HAYDEN

EXECUTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

  
JOHN F. KERRY




  
JOHN E. McLAUGHLIN


EXECUTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lisa Monaco", is written over a horizontal line.

LISA O. MONACO

EXECUTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

  
MICHAEL J. MORRELL

MORELL 

EXECUTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/  
**JANET A. NAPOLITANO**

13

EXECUTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

  
LEON E. PANETTA

13

16

EXECUTED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017

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/s/  
**SUSAN E. RICE**

# EXHIBIT OO

The New York Times | <https://nyti.ms/2jRZm93>

AMERICAS

# State Dept. Dissent Cable on Trump's Ban Draws 1,000 Signatures

By JEFFREY GETTLEMAN JAN. 31, 2017

NAIROBI, Kenya — It started out in Washington.

Then it went to Jakarta. Then across Africa.

One version even showed up on Facebook.

Within hours, a State Department dissent cable, asserting that President Trump's executive order to temporarily bar citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries would not make the nation safer, traveled like a chain letter — or a viral video.

The cable wended its way through dozens of American embassies around the world, quickly emerging as one of the broadest protests by American officials against their president's policies. And it is not over yet.

By 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the letter had attracted around 1,000 signatures, State Department officials said, far more than any dissent cable in recent years. It was being delivered to management, and department officials said more diplomats wanted to add their names to it.

The State Department has 7,600 Foreign Service officers and 11,000 civil servants.

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out passages.

For example, one diplomat suggested this sentence should simply end on “lasting shame”: “The decision to restrict the freedom of Japanese-Americans in the United States and foreign nationals who wanted to travel to or settle in the United States during the 1940s has been a source of lasting shame for many in our country.”

Some officials who were trying to sign the document on Tuesday said it was not clear who was in charge or who was collecting signatures. The letter was passed through official State Department email accounts and on government time — several diplomats said union rules allowed them to work on dissent memos on the clock.

“Policy dissent is in our culture,” said one diplomat in Africa, who did not want to speak publicly before the letter was released. “We even have awards for it.”

The letter, which harshly took apart the executive order, said the visa ban would “alienate allies” and “hurt America economically.” Foreign travelers inject nearly \$250 billion into the American economy, the letter said, supporting more than one million jobs.

Some diplomats said they joined the dissent by sending an email saying “I’m in” or “Please add my name as a signer” along with their full name, title, position and post.

The letter was apparently circulated through informal networks of diplomats and not through any State Department-wide email list. One diplomat on vacation in the United States said he received the letter from a colleague in another part of the world who was not connected to the drafters and was simply passing it along.

The diplomat predicted that hundreds of other diplomats would be eager to sign it if they could, but because of the complications of figuring out where the dissent memo originally came from, he was not sure how many would actually sign it.

Most people in the State Department have never seen anything like this, the diplomat said. He said dissent memos were reserved for major policy issues, not for

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That diplomat also requested anonymity, saying that Foreign Service officers were not supposed to criticize American policy publicly and that he did not want to open himself up to accusations that he had violated the rules. That could threaten his job, he said, especially in such a polarized environment.

This is exactly what the dissent channel, as it is called, was intended for.

Starting in 1971 during the Vietnam War, the channel encourages department officials to voice their criticisms internally through a process of sending a memo or a cable to the secretary of state expressing their concerns and suggesting solutions. The final part of the visa ban memo lays out detailed alternatives, including increased vetting for specific nationalities.

State Department rules are supposed to protect dissenters from being retaliated against, and last year several dozen diplomats signed a dissent memo criticizing American policy on Syria.

But however officially tolerated, several veteran diplomats said dissent was still risky. When it comes to ambassadorships, the selection process is highly competitive — and highly subjective — and the diplomats said it would be impossible to prove why someone had been blocked from a coveted post. Previous dissent could easily be used against the person.

Some State Department officials said on Tuesday that they would not sign the letter because of those risks. While one said he disagreed with the visa ban, he considered it his job to enforce American government policies whether or not he agreed with them.

Other diplomats said the letter did not mean that dissenters would disobey the visa ban. The intent was to try to change the policy so the ban would be lifted, they said.

The diplomat who said he would not use a dissent memo to complain about cafeteria food said that he had been torn when the United States invaded Iraq

He said he was just starting out at the time.

The visa ban, he said, “was such obviously bad policy” that he was trying to find a way to sign the dissent letter.

He also said that many diplomats were using the letter as a vehicle to express broader concerns about the way the Trump administration has appeared to sideline the State Department.

The diplomat spoke in defense of refugees, saying that the tiny percentage from, say, Somalia who had been approved for resettlement in the United States had been scrutinized by several agencies and were among the most vulnerable of very vulnerable people. Now, many are stuck in limbo in transit centers.

The diplomat also criticized Mr. Trump’s press secretary, Sean Spicer, who said on Monday that State Department officials who did not agree with Mr. Trump’s agenda “should either get with the program or they can go.”

He called that “bullying at the highest levels.”

*Follow Jeffrey Gettleman on Twitter @gettleman.*

A version of this article appears in print on February 1, 2017, on Page A1 of the New York edition with the headline: Dissent on Travel Ban Spreads From One Embassy to Another.

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# EXHIBIT PP



The Rachel Maddow Show / The MaddowBlog



Exclusive: DHS intel doc contradicts case for Trump's travel ban, 3/2/17, 9:02 PM ET

## TRMS Exclusive: DHS document undermines Trump case for travel ban

03/02/17 09:15 PM – UPDATED 03/03/17 12:14 AM

The Rachel Maddow Show has obtained, exclusively, a Department of Homeland Security intelligence assessment document. The document, from the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, makes the case that most foreign-born, U.S.-based violent extremists are likely not radicalized when they come to the U.S., but rather become radicalized after living in the U.S. for a number of years.

The document follows another piece of research (pdf) from Homeland Security that undercut President Trump's rationale for a travel ban as a means of keeping violent extremists out. On Friday, the Associated Press published an analysis from

Homeland Security that said citizenship in any given country – including the seven countries listed in the executive order – is likely an unreliable indicator of whether someone poses a terrorist threat.

The new assessment, obtained by the Rachel Maddow Show and dated March 1, tracks 88 violent, foreign-born extremists in the United States. More than half of them had been in the U.S. more than 10 years before they were indicted or killed.

Homeland Security tonight has confirmed the authenticity of the document. The department says production of it began in August 2016, and that it likely would have reached the White House. We have asked the White House for comment tonight. They have not responded.

Read the document below:

[\(Scribd pdf link here\)](#)

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## INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT



(U//FOUO) Most Foreign-born, US-based  
Violent Extremists Radicalized after Entering  
Homeland; Opportunities for Tailored CVE



# Programs Exist

1 March 2017



**Homeland Security**

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

IA-0091-17

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**Homeland Security**

Office of Intelligence and Analysis

**INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT**

1 March 2017

## **(U//FOUO) Most Foreign-born, US-based Violent Extremists Radicalized after Entering Homeland; Opportunities for Tailored CVE Programs Exist**

(U//FOUO) Prepared by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A). Coordinated with CBP, the Department of State, ICE, NCTC, and USCIS.

### **(U) Scope**

(U//FOUO) This Assessment examines the immigration history and radicalization of 88 foreign-born, US-based persons who participated in a terrorism-related activity inspired by at least one named foreign terrorist organization (FTO).<sup>a</sup> All examined individuals primarily resided in the United States either at the time of their involvement in a terrorism-related activity or prior to their travel to join an FTO. The list of individuals included in this study was derived from academic and government sources, including a Department of Justice (DOJ) list of unsealed international terrorism and terrorism-related cases. The terrorism-related activities these individuals engaged in were identified in US Government sources or reliable media reporting. These activities include conducting or attempting to conduct an attack in the United States, traveling or attempting to travel from the United States to join an FTO overseas, and providing funds, goods, or logistical assistance to support an FTO. All individuals examined in our study were indicted or killed between March 2011—the start of the Syrian conflict—and December 2016. Individuals who were minors at the time of their indictment or death were not included. Our review did not consider classified or non-disseminated investigative



(U//FOUO) This Assessment identifies several factors, some of which are constitutionally protected activity, which we assess contributed to the radicalization of foreign-born, US-based violent extremists mentioned in this report. None of these factors should be viewed as definitive indicators of radicalization to violence absent corroborative information revealing a link to violence or terrorism. This Assessment is intended to inform federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial counterterrorism, law enforcement, and countering violent extremism (CVE) officials, as well as immigrant screening and vetting officials on trends of foreign-born individuals engaged in terrorism activity in the Homeland. It also provides an overview of opportunities to prevent and detect future violent extremist radicalization. The information cutoff date is 31 December 2016.

## (U) Key Judgments

**(U//FOUO) We assess that most foreign-born, US-based violent extremists likely radicalized several years after their entry to the United States, limiting the ability of screening and vetting officials to prevent their entry because of national security concerns. We base this assessment on our findings that nearly half of the foreign-born, US-based violent extremists examined in our dataset were less than 16 years old when they entered the country and that the majority of foreign-born individuals resided in the United States for more than 10 years before their indictment or death. A separate DHS study that found recent foreign-born US violent extremists began radicalizing, on average, 13 years after their entry to the United States further supports our assessment.**

**(U//FOUO) We assess nearly all parents who entered the country with minor-age children likely did not espouse a violent extremist ideology at the time they entered or at any time since, suggesting these foreign-born individuals were likely not radicalized by their parents before or after their arrival in the Homeland. We base this judgment on their admissions to the United States by screening and vetting agencies who review all available derogatory information, our review of press interviews of parents after their child was arrested or killed, and the lack of arrests of the parents since their entry.**

<sup>9</sup> (U//FOUO) DHS defines radicalization as the process through which an individual changes from a nonviolent belief system to a belief system that includes the willingness to actively advocate, facilitate, or use unlawful violence as a method to effect societal or political change.

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material support to ISIS as a group, according to DOJ criminal complaints.<sup>9,10</sup>

- » (U//FOUO) In 2012, two individuals born in Uzbekistan were arrested for providing material support to the Islamic Jihad Union, according to DOJ criminal complaints.<sup>11,12</sup> Separately, four Uzbekistan-born individuals were arrested in 2015 for providing material support to ISIS, according to a DOJ criminal complaint and superseding indictment.<sup>13,14</sup> These two groups comprised six of the nine individuals in our dataset who were born in Uzbekistan.
- » (U//FOUO) All seven individuals born in Bosnia were associates of each other. Six were arrested in 2015 for providing material support to ISIS and one died in 2014 after successfully joining ISIS in Syria, according to DOJ criminal complaints and a press report.<sup>15,16</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) Two of the seven violent extremists in our dataset who were born in Pakistan were brothers who plotted together to provide material support to al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), according to a DOJ indictment.<sup>17</sup>

(U//FOUO) We assess nearly all parents who entered the country with minor-age children likely did not espouse a violent extremist ideology at the time they entered or at any time since, suggesting these foreign-born individuals were likely not radicalized by their parents before or after their arrival in the Homeland. We base this judgment on their admissions to the United States by screening and vetting agencies who review all available derogatory information, our review of press interviews of parents after their child was arrested or killed, and the lack of arrests of the parents since their entry.



- » (U//FOUO) Two months before Somali immigrant Abdurizak Warsame<sup>USPER</sup> was arrested for conspiring to provide material support to ISIS, his mother lectured other parents about the importance of talking with their children about risks stemming from adhering to a violent extremist ideology and the need to work with the FBI, according to press reporting.<sup>18</sup> Warsame was sentenced to 30 months in prison in November 2016 because of his attempt to travel to Syria to join ISIS, according to a press report.<sup>19</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) Harlem Suarez's<sup>USPER</sup> family was surprised by his arrest for plotting an attack in support of ISIS in 2015, according to a press report.<sup>20</sup> The family described Suarez, who was born in Cuba, as curious and unable to hurt anything, according to the same report.<sup>21</sup> Suarez is currently awaiting trial, according to another press report.<sup>22</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) Jose Pimentel's<sup>USPER</sup> mother publicly apologized to the City of New York after his arrest in 2011, saying she was disappointed with her son's actions, according to multiple press reports.<sup>23,24,25</sup> Pimentel—who immigrated from the Dominican Republic with his family when he was five—was sentenced to 16 years in prison after pleading guilty in February 2014 to terrorism charges related to plotting to conduct an attack in the Homeland, according to a separate press report.<sup>26</sup>

#### (U//FOUO) Similar Radicalization Factors among Native- and Foreign-born US Violent Extremists

(U//FOUO) Our review of 116 native-born US violent extremists, who were publicly identified as having been arrested or killed between March 2011 and December 2016, showed that many had similar experiences and grievances to the 88 foreign-born violent extremists we examined. We assess that these experiences and grievances probably in part contributed to the radicalization of some native- and foreign-born, US-based violent extremists and included perceived injustices against Muslims in the Homeland and abroad because of US policies, feelings of anger and isolation, and witnessing violence as a child. The lack of extensive open source information detailing some of these US violent extremists' radicalization histories prevented us from identifying motivating factors for all individuals examined in our dataset.

- » (U//FOUO) Native-born brothers Nader Saadeh<sup>USPER</sup> and Alaa Saadeh<sup>USPER</sup>—who both pleaded guilty after their arrest in 2015 for providing material support to ISIS—believed the United States oppressed its own people and failed to protect Muslims, according to DOJ criminal complaints.<sup>27,28</sup> Similarly, Ibrahim Mohammad<sup>USPER</sup>, born in the UAE and arrested in 2015 for providing material support to AQAP, believed the United States was actively at war with Islam, according another DOJ criminal complaint.<sup>29</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) Native-born Josh Van Haften<sup>USPER</sup>, who is awaiting his trial for attempting to travel overseas to join ISIS, became isolated from his peers after a sexual assault required him to register as a sex offender, according to press reporting.<sup>30</sup> He was told to leave his housing because he was a sex offender, and he was never able to have a romantic relationship, according to a press interview with Van Haften's mother and her partner.<sup>31</sup> The FBI assesses isolation to be one of many factors in Van Haften's radicalization, but not the primary one. Similarly, the now-deceased foreign-born former editor of AQAP's Inspire magazine, Samir Khan, and now-deceased ISIS foreign fighter Abdullah Ramo Pazara felt isolated or different from their communities and peers, according to multiple press reports.<sup>32,33,34</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) At least five foreign-born US violent extremists were exposed to violence or substance abuse as children, according to a review of available press reporting.<sup>35–39</sup> We judge, however, there are likely additional individuals included in our dataset who were also exposed to violence during their childhood, based on our finding that 41 foreign-born US violent extremists in our dataset entered the United States as a refugee, asylee, or child of a refugee or asylee.

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#### (U//FOUO) CVE Opportunities to Prevent Radicalization of Foreign-born, US-based Individuals

(U//FOUO) We assess that the integration and mentoring services provided by federal, state, and private sector entities to refugees and asylees offer an opportunity to help foreign-born US residents adjust to their new communities and raise their awareness of and resistance to violent extremist narratives and recruiters, and likely increase their resistance to radicalization. Immigrants not entering the United States as refugees or asylees must prove their ability to provide basic needs for themselves before arriving in the United States, and thus they would not be eligible to receive many of these healthcare, housing, employment, and education services; however, there are many programs available to all immigrants to assist with integration into US society.



integrate into US society by addressing their basic healthcare, housing, employment, and education needs.<sup>40</sup>

Additionally, USCIS, through its Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, as of September 2016 awarded \$63 million through 308 competitive grants in 37 states to help immigrants prepare and apply for US citizenship, according to USCIS.<sup>41</sup>

- » (U) Many nonprofit organizations engage with immigrant communities, including a Georgia-based nonprofit that serves the cultural, psychological, and social-economic needs of refugees and immigrants in Atlanta, according to their website.<sup>42</sup>

(U//FOUO) The experiences and grievances we assessed as common within these individuals present opportunities for CVE programs focused on integration and mentorship. Such programs could address adolescent immigrants' feelings of isolation, anger, and depression caused by immigration experiences—which could in turn reduce the ability of FTOs to exploit these feelings for recruitment. Program administrators would be positioned to assist adolescents if the administrators are made aware of common radicalization vulnerabilities and behavioral indicators, as well as effective counter-narratives to challenge FTO messaging.

- » (U//FOUO) Guled Omar<sup>USPER</sup>, who was sentenced in 2016 for attempting travel overseas to join ISIS, claimed in a December 2016 press interview that after his older brother traveled to Somalia in 2007 to join al-Shabaab, he was shunned and isolated from the Somali-American community in Minneapolis, which led to his depression, drug use, and taunting by peers.<sup>43</sup>
- » (U) Successful programs for adolescent immigrants could include convening youth from varying cultural backgrounds to promote cultural understanding and providing opportunities to counter anti-immigrant attitudes in mainstream culture, according to research published by a State University of New York at Albany<sup>USPER</sup> program called Voices for Change: Immigrant Women and State Policy.<sup>44</sup> Separately, the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Welfare Information Gateway offers online resources for immigrant youth, including a guide on living in America, educational and safety resources for parents, and a handbook for raising children in a new country.<sup>45</sup>

(U//FOUO) We also judge that open discussions with community and religious centers about overseas conflicts and ways that violent extremists may use religion to justify their actions would likely help dissuade some foreign-born, US-based individuals who are seeking answers to their questions from relying exclusively on research conducted online, which is often dominated by FTO messaging that offers only a violent extremist perspective.

- » (U//FOUO) Some individuals in our dataset who became interested in conflict zones or their religion sought to educate themselves on the Internet—where they encountered videos and literature espousing violent extremist ideology—rather than their local religious or community leaders, according to press reporting.<sup>46,47</sup> Somali-Americans Abdi Nur<sup>USPER</sup> and Guled Omar—who have since been indicted for attempting to provide material support to ISIS—were asked to leave their respective mosques because of their expressions of violent extremist beliefs, which, in effect, pushed their research underground, where they turned to the Internet and had their nascent violent extremist views reinforced, according to a press report.<sup>48</sup> Abdi Nur was indicted on conspiracy charges for providing material support to ISIS in 2014, according to a DOJ press release.<sup>49</sup>
- » (U//FOUO) Abdizirak Warsame stated in his court appearance that he was always listening to one side, referring to the “radical” messages he saw online, according to a press report. Warsame claimed that at the time he did not realize innocent people were being killed, according to the same report, which was likely a reference to terrorists' targeting of civilians.<sup>50</sup>

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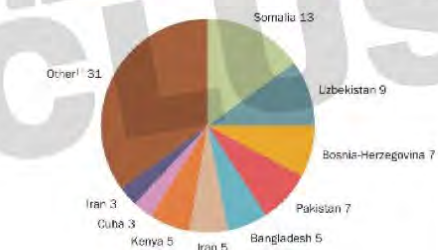


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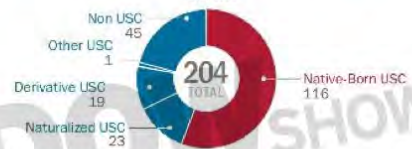
INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT  
01 March 2017**(U//FOUO) Most Foreign-born, US-based Violent Extremists Probably Radicalize After Entering the Homeland**

(U//FOUO) I&A examined the immigration history and radicalization activities of 88 foreign-born, US-based violent extremists who were indicted or killed as a result of their participation in a terrorism-related activity inspired by at least one foreign terrorist organization between March 2011 and December 2016.<sup>1</sup> We based this study primarily on DHS immigration records, publicly available court documents and reliable press reporting. Nearly half of the foreign-born violent extremists in our dataset entered the United States when they were under the age of 16 and a majority remained in the United States for over ten years before their indictment or death, suggesting most foreign-born, US-based violent extremists likely radicalized after entering the Homeland.

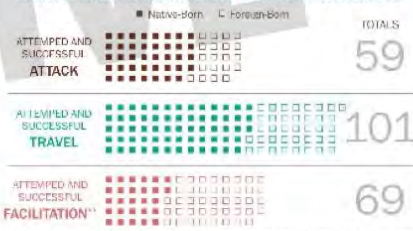
<sup>1</sup>(U//FOUO) DHS defines radicalization as the process through which an individual changes from a non-violent belief system to a belief system that includes the willingness to actively advocate, facilitate, or use violent violence as a method to effect societal or political change.

**(U) AGE OF ENTRY OF FOREIGN-BORN VIOLENT EXTREMISTS****(U) LENGTH OF TIME IN US OF FOREIGN-BORN VIOLENT EXTREMISTS****(U) COUNTRIES OF BIRTH OF FOREIGN-BORN VIOLENT EXTREMISTS**

<sup>1</sup>(U//FOUO) Either one or two individuals were born in each of the following 24 countries: Albania, Afghanistan, Australia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Yugoslavia.

**(U) NATIVE- AND FOREIGN-BORN VIOLENT EXTREMISTS US CITIZENSHIP (USC) STATUS AT TIME OF INDICTMENT OR DEATH<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>2</sup>(U//FOUO) Non-USC includes legal permanent residents (LPR), temporary lawful permanent residents (TPR), and individuals with no status.

**(U) TERRORISM-RELATED ACTIVITIES OF NATIVE- AND FOREIGN-BORN VIOLENT EXTREMISTS<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>3</sup>(U//FOUO) Numbers include individuals who participated or were interested in more than one activity.

<sup>4</sup>(U//FOUO) Facilitation activities include financial or logistical support, and terrorist recruitment.

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**(U) Source Summary Statement**

(U//FOUO) This Assessment is based primarily on I&A's review of DHS immigration and travel records and publicly available court documents as well as relevant reliable press reporting. The scope of our study did not include consideration of non-disseminated investigative information.

(U//FOUO) I&A has **moderate confidence** that most foreign-born US violent extremists likely radicalize several years after their entry to the United States, based on a review of court documents and press reporting from which we determined the first known sign of radicalization to violence among recent US violent extremists and a body of USCIS data from which we determined the length of time the individuals examined in our current dataset spent in the United States before their indictment or death. We note that there are challenges in determining the exact date that radicalization began, which is often a personal and individualized process that is difficult to observe. Additional reporting on the online activities of the US violent extremists, as well as information from the US violent extremists themselves or their family and friends about possible indicators of their loved ones' radicalization would further strengthen our confidence in this assessment. Our assessment is further supported by our finding that nearly half of the foreign-born individuals in our dataset entered the United States when they were younger than 16 years old, an age group that is typically younger than the age most violent extremists begin radicalizing.

(U//FOUO) We have **moderate confidence** in our assessment that nearly all parents who entered the country with these foreign-born, US-based violent extremists likely did not espouse a violent extremist ideology or exhibit any violent radicalization or mobilization indicators at the time they entered or since. Our assessment is based on a qualitative review of reliable press reporting describing the family life and parents of the individuals in our dataset. Additional information about the parents of these individuals—which is likely contained in immigration screening and vetting interview transcripts related to these individuals and their parents, which we lacked access to—would strengthen our confidence in this assessment.

(U//FOUO) We have **moderate confidence** that provision of services to refugees and asylees and programs tailored to adolescents offer opportunities to provide CVE programs to address radicalization factors possibly relevant to foreign-born US residents. Our assessment is based on a review of DHS data on the number of refugees and asylum seekers and current programs focused on immigrant youth which collectively can address many of the challenges and experiences of the foreign-born individuals in our dataset.



(U//FOUO) We have **moderate confidence** that open discussions with community and religious centers about overseas conflicts and ways violent extremists may use religion to justify their actions would likely help dissuade some foreign-born, US-based individuals from relying exclusively on Internet research. Our assessment is based on an analysis of current CVE programs and grievances cited by the individuals in our dataset to determine whether these programs would likely address the radicalization factors of these individuals. The inherent challenges involved in proving that CVE efforts have successfully countered radicalization of violent extremists or possible radicalization of vulnerable individuals limit our confidence in this assessment.

#### (U) Report Suspicious Activity

**(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement.** Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

**(U) Tracked by:** HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2, HSEC-8.3, HSEC-8.5

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# EXHIBIT QQ



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JANUARY 25, 2017 3:31PM

## Little National Security Benefit to Trump's Executive Order on Immigration

By ALEX NOWRASTEH

Tomorrow, President Trump is expected to sign an executive order enacting a 30-day suspension of all visas for nationals from Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Foreigners from those seven nations have killed zero Americans in terrorist attacks on U.S. soil between 1975 and the end of 2015. Six Iranians, six Sudanese, two Somalis, two Iraqis, and one Yemini have been convicted of attempting or carrying out terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. Zero Libyans or Syrians have been convicted of planning a terrorist attack on U.S. soil during that time period.

Many other foreigners have been convicted of terrorism-related offenses that did not include planning a terrorist attack on U.S. soil. One list released by Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) details 580 [terror-related convictions](#) since 9/11. This incomplete list probably influenced which countries are temporarily banned, and likely provided justification for another section of Trump's executive order, which directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to release all information on foreign-born terrorists going forward, and requires additional DHS reports to study foreign-born terrorism.

First, 241 of the convictions (42 percent) were not for terrorism offenses. Senator Sessions puffed his numbers by including "terrorism-related convictions," a nebulous category that includes investigations that begin due to a terrorism tip but then end in non-terrorism convictions. My favorite examples of this are the convictions of Nasser Abuali, Hussein Abuali, and Rabi Ahmed. An informant told the FBI that the trio tried to purchase a rocket-propelled grenade launcher, but the FBI found no evidence supporting the accusation. The three individuals were instead convicted of receiving two truckloads of stolen cereal. That is a crime but it is not terrorism.

Second, only 40 of the 580 convictions (6.9 percent) were for foreigners planning a terrorist attack on U.S. soil. Seeking to join a foreign terrorist group overseas, material support for a foreign terrorist, and seeking to commit an act of terror on foreign soil account for 180 of the 580 convictions (31 percent). Terrorism on foreign soil is a crime, should be a crime, and those convicted of these offenses should be punished severely but the government cannot claim that these convictions made America safe again because these folks were not targeting U.S. soil.

Third, 92 of the 580 convictions (16 percent) were for U.S. born citizens. No change in immigration law, visa limitations, or more rigorous security checks would have stopped them.

The executive order includes national security exemptions to be made on a case-by-case basis. The President reserves the option to ban the entry of nationals from additional countries in the future based on a national security risk report written by DHS. Furthermore, the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security can recommend visa bans for nationals from additional countries at any time.

In addition to the visa restrictions above, Trump's executive order further cuts the refugee program to 50,000 annually, indefinitely blocks all refugees from Syria, and suspends all refugee admissions for 120 days. This is a response to a phantom menace. From 1975 to the end of 2015, 20 refugees have been convicted of attempting or committing terrorism on U.S. soil, and only three Americans have been killed in attacks committed by refugees—all in the 1970s. Zero Americans have been killed by

Syrian refugees in a terrorist attack on U.S. soil. The annual chance of an American dying in a terrorist attack committed by a refugee is one in 3.6 billion. The other 17 convictions have mainly been for aiding or attempting to join foreign terrorists.

President Trump tweeted earlier this week that executive orders were intended to improve national security by reducing the terrorist threat. However, a rational evaluation of national security threats is not the basis for Trump's orders, as the risk is fairly small but the cost is great. The measures taken here will have virtually no effect on improving U.S. national security.

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Topics: International Economics, Development & Immigration

Tags: Trump, executive order, terrorism, immigration, immigrants, ban, Muslim, refugees



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# EXHIBIT RR

# Kelly: There are '13 or 14' more countries with questionable vetting procedures

By **Daniella Diaz**, CNN

⌚ Updated 2:09 AM ET, Tue March 7, 2017



Kelly says more countries have vetting issues 01:08

## Story highlights

Trump signed a new executive order that bans immigration from six Muslim-majority countries

Kelly says the ban is not a Muslim ban

**Washington (CNN)** — Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly said that apart from the six countries listed on Monday's travel ban, there are "13 or 14" other countries that also have questionable vetting procedures.

Kelly didn't name any of the additional countries the administration is concerned about and acknowledged he doesn't expect the list of countries subject to the travel ban will grow.

"There will probably be other countries we will look at," he told CNN's Wolf Blitzer on "The Situation Room." "I don't believe the list will be expanded, but there are countries out there that we will ask, like Iraq has done ... to cooperate with us better, to get country."

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can rely on. And if we overlay additional vetting procedures, the chances are these countries will be minimum citizens from those countries that visit our country."

President Donald Trump on Monday signed a new executive order that bans immigration from six Muslim-majority countries, dropping Iraq from January's previous order and reinstates a temporary blanket ban on all refugees. Iraq was removed from a revised version of an executive order banning travel from certain Muslim-majority countries after intensive lobbying from the Iraqi government at the highest levels, a senior US official told CNN Monday.

### [President Donald Trump signs new travel ban, exempts Iraq](#)

The new measures will block citizens of Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen from obtaining visas for at least 90 days.

The new ban, which will be implemented March 16, comes six weeks after Trump's original executive order caused chaos at airports nationwide before it was blocked by federal courts.

The ban removes language in the original order that indefinitely banned Syrian refugees and called for prioritizing the admission of refugees who are religious minorities in their home countries.

Kelly told Blitzer that the ban is not a "Muslim ban," which is what it's being called by critics of the executive order.

"Three of the six (countries in the travel ban) now are designated as terrorism supporters," Kelly said. "We can't rely on those governments ... It's not a Muslim ban ... there are 51 overwhelmingly Muslim countries."

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