



AAG

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
of GEOGRAPHERS

Administration Issues New Travel Ban; Order Blocked by Federal Judges

On September 24, 2017, President Trump signed Proclamation 9645, which would block entry into the U.S. of most individuals from eight nations: Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, and Somalia. The goals of the decree are similar to the prior travel bans that the President issued in January and March of 2017 and that were ultimately blocked by federal courts.

The new third proposed ban was set to take effect on October 18, but has been mostly blocked by decisions from federal district judges in Hawaii and Maryland. As with the previous Executive Orders, the recent court rulings indicated that the Administration is attempting to impose an unconstitutional ban on Muslims, and, as such, the decisions block enforcement of provisions of Proclamation 9645 related to Chad, Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Somalia. The government was allowed to enact restrictions on entries from North Korea and Venezuela.

There will likely be appeals to higher courts by the Administration asserting their right to block entries from the six Muslim nations. It is also probable that challenges will be filed against the government's actions in banning individuals from Venezuela, and possibly North Korea.

The AAG is monitoring the issue carefully, especially as it relates to our Annual Meeting attendees. Earlier this year, we issued statements condemning the [first](#) and [second](#) travel bans, and we enacted [policies](#) to help any affected attendees. We also set up a [process](#) to help any colleagues from affected nations who might be experiencing problems travelling to Boston for the 2017 Annual Meeting. We will take the same steps if necessary for New Orleans in 2018.

It is worth noting that when the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed the initial Orders in June of this year, the Justices stated in their opinion that the Administration could not ban "a lecturer invited to address an American audience" from entering the U.S. This would seem to apply to colleagues coming for our Annual Meeting or other forms of academic exchange.

In related news, officials from Turkey and the U.S. have taken steps to suspend traveler visas for each other's citizens. The moves were made as part of an escalating diplomatic feud that included the arrest (by Turkey) on terrorism charges of Turkish citizens who were working at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara. The two nations have held diplomatic talks in an effort to end the dispute, but as of this writing, there is still no resolution.