

## **Community Alert on Executive Order Regarding Refugees & Country Ban**

Prepared on Jan 30, 2017. \*\*\*Information is quickly changing or being clarified. Please contact the below organizations or firms for additional information or to share information about a specific individual\*\*\*

**Affected Countries:** Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen

### **Who is affected:**

- Citizens of the affected countries as well as dual nationals
- Non-immigrant (visa holder) admissions suspended for at least 90 days
- Lawful Permanent Residents (green card holders) likely to face increased questioning and delays
- Refugee program suspended for at least 120 days
- U.S. Citizens are not affected, even if they hold dual nationality with an affected country

### **What is happening?**

Permanent Residents (green card holders) of the seven countries listed above are often undergoing a lengthy questioning and inspection process where their phones, e-mails, social media, etc. may be searched for information showing that the person might be against the United States. Expect it to take several hours before you can leave.

Certain immigration officers at airports might try to force Permanent Residents to sign Form I-407 to voluntarily give up their Permanent Residence.

Many immigration officers at airports are refusing to admit nonimmigrants (visa holders) from the seven countries.

### **What to do?**

1. **Contact an immigration lawyer as soon as possible:** individuals who are in the United States but are citizens of one of the affected countries should consult an immigration lawyer before traveling outside the United States and should travel with their lawyer's contact information.
2. Before you travel, send a copy of the personal data page of your passport and your visa stamp or entry documents to a family member who will wait for you at the airport, so they can provide this information to an immigration attorney if you have problems at the airport.
3. Permanent residents in the United States should contact an immigration attorney to see if they are eligible to apply for citizenship.
4. If you are stopped by immigration at the airport and you are afraid to return to your country for any reason, tell immigration you want asylum. This is your right and the executive order does not limit this right. Please know that if you request asylum, you may be detained until you have passed an interview regarding your fear of return to your country. This may take days or weeks.
5. Individuals should **NOT** agree to give up their permanent residence (green card status). You have the right to a hearing with an attorney!

This practice alert is not legal advice. Individuals should speak with an attorney to make decisions based on individual circumstances. There are many additional questions raised by the Executive Order and the court stays, and we will continue to release information and analysis as it becomes available.

### **Contacts:**

Individuals who are prevented from traveling or returning to the United States due to the executive order should contact: National Immigrant Justice Center by email to [litigation@heartlandalliance.org](mailto:litigation@heartlandalliance.org).

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