

Trusted Traveler Revocations and the Muslim Ban

January 29, 2018

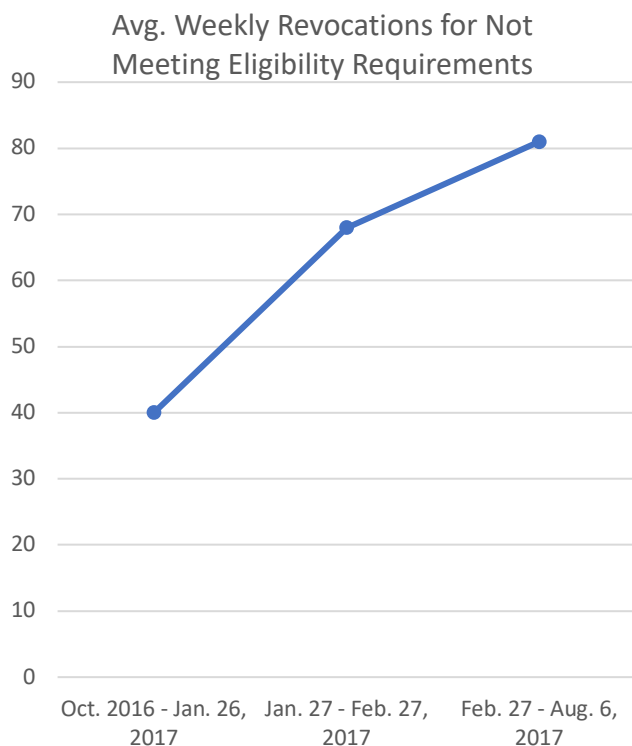
On January 27, 2017, President Trump issued the first iteration of his Muslim Ban Executive Order, suspending entry into the U.S. for all refugees and for most nationals of several predominantly Muslim countries (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen). Shortly thereafter, news reports surfaced indicating that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) had begun revoking an increasing number of memberships in its Trusted Traveler programs (e.g. Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI), which provide vetted travelers with expedited passage through customs checkpoints at airports and border crossings in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. These revocations targeted a number of individuals – including U.S. citizens – from the seven countries singled out by the Muslim Ban, as well as others who, based on their name or background, were presumed to be Muslim. In March 2017, Muslim Advocates submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to obtain documents and information about the cause of these revocations; Muslim Advocates, represented by the Roderick & Solange MacArthur Justice Center, has since sued DHS to compel its compliance with this request. This fact sheet presents important data that has thus far been uncovered about CBP’s Trusted Traveler revocations between October 2016 and August 2017.

Trusted Traveler Membership Revocations Before and After the Muslim Ban

Levels of Trusted Traveler membership revocations increased significantly in the aftermath of President Trump’s Muslim Ban Executive Orders:

- Many Trusted Traveler program members who listed a majority-Muslim country as their country of birth had their memberships revoked during the seven-month period following the first Muslim Ban Executive Order. Among majority-Muslim countries, there was a nearly **60%** increase in the weekly average of such Trusted Traveler membership revocations following the issuance of the first Executive Order.
- In the four months preceding the first Executive Order, CBP revoked an average of **169** Trusted Traveler memberships per week. In the seven months following the First Executive Order, that weekly average rose to over **240** revocations per week.
- Revocations of memberships in the Global Entry program, which allows for expedited clearance upon arriving at U.S. airports, more than doubled following the issuance of the Muslim Ban.

Why Were Memberships Revoked?



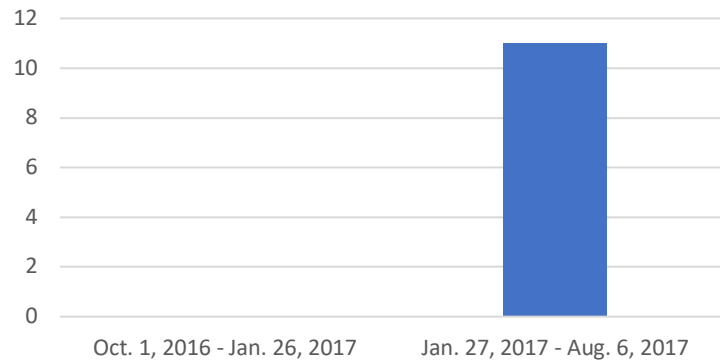
- Between January 28 and February 3, 2017 – immediately following the issuance of the first Executive Order – five Trusted Traveler program membership revocations explicitly referred to the Muslim Ban as the basis for revocation.
- In the aftermath of President Trump’s Muslim Ban Executive Orders, revocation explanations including “You do not meet program eligibility requirements” and other comparable language also increased significantly.
- In the four months before the first Executive Order, there was an average of **40** revocations per week on this “eligibility” basis. In the month following the first Executive Order, this average jumped to **68** revocations per week; over the next five months, the average number of these weekly revocations climbed to **81**.
- After the first Executive Order, there was also a flurry of email traffic among CBP officials revealing that the agency had revoked hundreds more memberships on the basis of the Muslim Ban, despite court orders blocking the Ban from going into effect. Many of these memberships were subsequently reinstated.

Impact on Individuals from Countries Targeted by the Muslim Ban

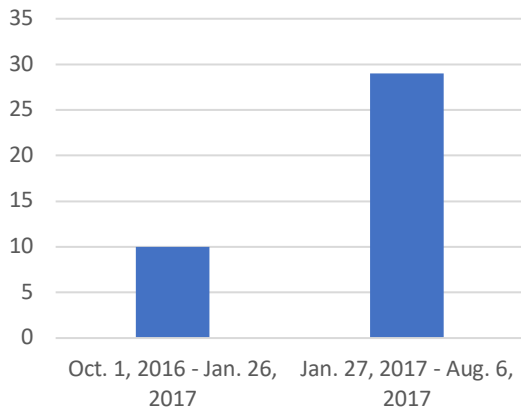
The data obtained thus far reveals a significant impact on individuals from countries singled out by President Trump’s Muslim Ban Executive Orders. For example:

- When comparing membership revocations for the four-month period preceding the first Executive Order against the following seven-month period, there was an increase in average weekly revocations for individuals from **every country targeted by the first Order**.
- For some of these countries, revocations spiked sharply: for example, in the roughly four-month period preceding the first Executive Order, no Trusted Traveler revocations took place for individuals listing Somalia as their country of birth; over the next seven months, however, eleven such revocations took place.
- Of the five Trusted Traveler revocations that specifically referred to the Muslim Ban during the period of January 28 and February 3, 2017, four of the affected individuals listed Iraq as their home country; the other listed Syria.
- Individuals listing Iran or Iraq as their country of birth also saw significant spikes in Trusted Traveler membership revocations.

Membership Revocations Among Somali-Born Individuals



Membership Revocations Among Iranian-Born Individuals



Membership Revocations Among Iraqi-Born Individuals

