

Introduction and Methodology for the Muslim Ban 3.0 Dataset

Background

On June 26, 2018, the [Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision](#) to uphold President Donald Trump's [Presidential Proclamation 9645](#), otherwise known as Muslim Ban 3.0. In light of the first year anniversary of this decision, and through the Bridge Initiative's ongoing research on the Muslim Ban, we perceived a growing need to document the human impact of the current Muslim Ban. In so doing, we created a database in which we compiled publicly reported stories of those impacted (past or present) by Muslim Ban 3.0. The goal of this database is to reveal the systematic harms that this policy has caused, and to articulate the findings to the public. [According to the latest numbers](#) released by the U.S. Department of State, between December 2017 (when Muslim Ban 3.0 first went into effect) and March 2019 there have been 60,275 total immigrant and non-immigrant visa applications that have been subject to the restrictions of Muslim Ban 3.0. The Bridge Initiative's database includes just 248 of those applications, offering a small but revealing snapshot into the cumulative harm caused by Muslim Ban 3.0.

Data Sources

Data sources were identified following keyword searches such as "Muslim ban" and "travel ban," generating sources through three main publically available avenues: online news media, lawsuits, and the [in-it #StopTheBan video platform](#). Through these sources and keyword searches, we were able to identify and aggregate data that specifically involved the waiver process and/or applications that are currently held in administrative processing; specifically, 549 entries. Out of these 549 individuals, 248 are individual applicants for visas; the rest are their family members. These entries include anyone who has been impacted, including applicants who have applied and/or been denied visas, and/or their family members. Personal stories that were shared as posts on social media were not included due to difficulties in verifying these posts.

Categories

The data is divided into 21 categories. These categories include dates, location, and status of the visa application, interview process, and waiver adjudication; the degree of separation from family (parent-child, partners, siblings, grandparent-grandchildren), harms/loss incurred (medical, financial, personal, professional), deaths, babies born, nationality, residence, and wait time.

Data Entries

Data entries were made for each individual. For example, a plaintiff in a class action lawsuit may only be listed as John Doe, but additional details provided indicate that the

plaintiff is currently petitioning for his wife and five children, who are being banned from joining John Doe in the U.S. In this case, for instance, seven data points would be entered for John Doe and his family. When the names of partners or children are not known or are anonymous, the names “Child 1,” “Child 2,” and “John Doe’s wife,” for instance, would be used. In the Google sheet, family units are highlighted the same color to indicate that they are one unit.

Some of the individuals in the database have received waivers since their story went public. However, we have still included them in the database because at some point in the past few years they were awaiting visa adjudication as a result of the Muslim Ban. We believe that most of our data entry procedures and categories are fairly self-explanatory; however, the paragraphs below provide additional clarity on data entry methodology and the rationale behind certain categories in the database. Additionally, we have compiled the entries from the database into four distinct tables, which are explained below.

When indicating the nature of a family separation (Table 1), the data was entered in such a way that the relationship of the individual is listed relative to that individual’s separated family member. For instance, when making a data entry under the “Partner Separation” column for data point “John Doe,” the following data entry would be made to indicate that John Doe is separated from his wife: “x [wife].” The same logic applies to child/parent separation, sibling separation, and grandparent/child separation. In-law relationships are also counted in categories such as parent/child separation.

As a result of the Muslim Ban, individuals in the database have been subjected to a number of personal and professional costs. These include missing important family milestones (such as the birth of babies, weddings, or funerals), having their professional or academic prospects jeopardized, or being forced to live in conditions that threaten their health and safety. Table 2 records as much detail as was publicly available about these various professional and personal costs.

In many cases people affected by the Muslim Ban are suffering from physical and/or mental illnesses, disorders, and/or disabilities. In Table 3, as much detail as possible about their illnesses was recorded, based off publically reported information. The category of Anxiety/Depression/Emotional Distress contains those who have reported diagnosed psychiatric disorders, and those who have reported that they feel frequent emotional distress due to the Muslim Ban.

In the database, the columns “Date Applied for Visa” and “Date of Visa Interview” were used to calculate the length of visa processing (Table 4). In most cases this has been calculated as of July 2019. The only exception to this is cases in which there is concrete evidence that an individual had in fact been issued a visa and entered the U.S. In those situations, the length of case processing was calculated as of their arrival in the U.S. The assumption in all on-going cases is that if no updated information has been publicly released (news media, lawsuits, in-it video platform), a visa waiver has not been issued.

In general, most of the individuals counted in Table 4 fall into several categories: those who have submitted a visa petition but have yet to receive an official reply from the U.S., those who remain in administrative processing since the date of their interview, those who have received official notice that they are being considered for a waiver but have not been issued a waiver, and those who have been refused a visa waiver despite apparent eligibility for a waiver based on PP 9645 guidance.

There is a category called “Babies Born Waiting.” This category refers to babies who, according to news reports/lawsuits/in-it videos, have been born while in the process of a visa/waiver adjudication and/or separation. This total number is likely underreported, as many individuals were reported pregnant nine or more months ago. A good faith effort was made to find follow-up reporting on whether the child was born, but additional reporting was not available in all cases to confirm whether the child was born.

There is a category called “Death.” This category refers to individuals who, according to news reports/lawsuits/in-it videos, have died while in the process of visa/waiver adjudication and/or separation. According to reported and publicly available information, some of these deaths were a direct result of the Muslim Ban (i.e. a child requiring life-saving treatment/surgery who was banned from the U.S. and as a result died, or a father who died by suicide who was separated from his wife and children). In other cases, a death itself was not the direct result of the Muslim Ban, but the separation that it generated certainly was. For instance, this includes an individual in the U.S. on a student visa who was unable to leave the U.S. to attend their grandfather’s funeral due to restrictions on their visa.

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