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Background

A leaked draft Executive Order (E.O.), expected to be issued soon by President Trump, shows that Donald Trump is making good on a campaign promise to target immigration based on religion. The draft E.O. would halt immigration from seven Muslim-majority nations: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. It would also limit refugees' admittance into the United States from these Muslim-majority countries for all but "religious minorities," which, in practice will likely only apply to Christians. Such a policy does not recognize that the vast majority of people affected by terrorist organizations in these countries are themselves Muslim. With the exception of Iran, America has, in the recent past, bombed each of these countries in the name of anti-terrorism campaigns, adding to existing instability and creating dire situations for civilians caught up in the conflict.

Top 4 National Security Arguments Against the Muslim Ban

A Scared President Weakens America: American strength comes from a strong President, cohesive country and clear, popular commitment to the overall direction. The President and allies are using divisive language to stoke terrorism fears at home. While this may be politically expedient for winning elections, it has serious consequences for preserving our strength as the world superpower. If our allies or adversaries believe us to be afraid, they will see us as weak and therefore vulnerable. A Muslim Ban sends a clear signal around the world that America is afraid of small, rogue states which could embolden terrorists.

A Muslim Ban will Weaken America: American is stronger abroad is when it strong at home. The proposed Muslim Ban will only divide Americans along partisan, ethnic, and religious lines. These types of divisions manifest themselves in all kinds of ways and lay the groundwork for gridlock in Washington and in legislatures around the country. Moreover, this type of discrimination-based policy only sets up the basis for more extreme discriminatory policies, like a Muslim registry. America was founded as a home to those fleeing religious persecution and freedom of religion is enshrined as a founding principle of our nation. Now, President Trump is on the way to eviscerating the American project as we know it. When America is weak at home, it cannot govern effectively, nor can it project strength abroad.

A Muslim Ban Will Undermine America's Ability to Fight Terrorism: Islamist terrorist objectives are not just to bring terror to the United States and Western society, but also to kill fellow Muslims who do not practice Islam according to an extreme set of principles — i.e., who they deem are not Muslim enough. America relies on its partners abroad, in Muslim majority countries, to provide intelligence on suspected terrorist strongholds and terror cells. Partner countries may now be disinclined or under pressure from their citizens to stop providing assistance to the United States given such an overtly anti-Muslim discrimination policy. Moreover, the ban will provide a great propaganda item for terrorists seeking to exploit a belief in Muslim countries that the United States is expressly anti-Islam.

A Muslim Ban Will Take Resources Away From Other Complex National Security Challenges: The proposed E.O. will be time and resource-intensive for the State Department and Intelligence Community while ultimately have a detrimental effect on our ability to combat violent extremism from wherever it may emerge. The Trump Administration will face many complex challenges, such as North Korea's nuclear program and Russian aggression in Eastern Europe. Implementing such extreme policies will take resources away from where they are most needed. We cannot afford this ill-conceived idea.