Hello everyone, I am reaching out to check in based upon the news of the Supreme Court decision to allow the 3rd iteration of the travel ban to go into effect while legal challenges against it continue. The court’s brief, unsigned orders on Monday urged appeals courts to move swiftly to determine whether the latest ban was lawful.

I wanted to lay out what we understand about the order and check in with all of you.

- The Secretary of Homeland Security recommended entry restrictions and limitations for the below noted countries because of continued "inadequate" identity-management protocols, information-sharing practices, and risk factors – the supreme court’s decision means that the administration can fully enforce its new restrictions on travel from eight nations: Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Chad, Venezuela, and North Korea.
  - Chad, Libya, or Yemen – No B-1, B-2 or B-1/B-2 visitor visas; no immigrant or diversity lottery visas
  - Iran – No non-immigrants visas EXCEPT by such nationals under valid student (F and M) and exchange visitor (J) visas, and those individuals should be subject to enhanced screening and vetting requirements.
  - North Korea and Syria – No nonimmigrant, immigrant or diversity lottery visas
  - Somalia – Non-immigrant visa requestors should be subject to enhanced screening and vetting; no immigrant or diversity visas
  - Venezuela – certain government officials and their immediate family are barred from entry as nonimmigrants on business (B-1), tourist (B-2), and business/tourist (B-1/B-2) visas

Exemptions
- Several classes of foreign nationals are exempt from the restrictions, including U.S. lawful permanent residents, dual nationals traveling on a passport from a non-restricted country, foreign nationals who hold a valid U.S. visa or advance parole and those who were physically in the United States on the applicable original effective date of the travel restrictions.
- Those who are not exempt may request a waiver when applying for a visa. To be eligible for a waiver, a foreign national must demonstrate that he or she would suffer undue hardship if denied entry, and that his or her entry would not pose a threat to U.S. national security or public safety and would be in U.S. national interest. Waivers are discretionary and may be difficult to obtain.

What this means for travelers
- Foreign nationals who are currently in the United States, hold a passport from a restricted country (other than exempt dual nationals) and would need to apply for a visa to reenter the United States should carefully consider the risks of international travel and the potential for significant delays.
- As a reminder, all foreign nationals - including those exempt from the travel restrictions - are subject to national security screening and the potential for additional vetting when applying for a U.S. visa or admission to the United States.
You do not need to respond but please know that we in ISFS are here to support you in whatever way we can. We know that we cannot change the rules that have been implemented but we can be here to listen and discuss with you any concerns you may have.

Take care. Diane

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