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## Issue Brief

# Trump's Executive Orders Bans Refugees From Multiple Muslim Countries

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Soon after taking office on January 20, 2017 President Trump and his administration has started to unveil his policies. President Trump as he puts it, is committed towards bridging new ideas and approaches to the old existing US foreign policies. According to President Trump, his policies, whether it includes building a wall on its border with Mexico to potentially bringing back banned torture techniques will make America great again. His first week in the oval office, however, has been characterised as chaotic while he moved back and suspended many policies which were directed under the Obama Administration.

Nonetheless, certain traits of his foreign policy, as well as idea to make America great again has come under great criticism not only from within the US, but also globally. In an attempt to stay true to one of the promises he made during his campaign, President Donald Trump proposed a ban for three months on several, if not all, Muslim countries. The countries that face the ban include: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. He issued a draft of executive orders, which included and proposed a strenuous visa vetting process on certain Muslim countries which according to him either sponsor terrorism or help terrorism grow and incubate in the US. However, as of now Pakistan along with Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan are not in the list of the countries that will face the ban, but the idea of pick and drop and selection at will of countries can be expected. While justifying his move, President Trump stated that it is not a ban on all the Muslim countries, but only on those whom he classifies as "a total mess," and "the countries that have tremendous terror". On the eve of his first TV interview, President Trump justified his approach and at the same time criticised Europe for making a tremendous mistake by letting the refugees come in.

Earlier, the Obama administration had set a mark of accepting 100,000 refugees which has been cut to half by the Trump administration. The move has been termed as temporary and the executive order, which highlights the broader US refugee admissions programme, will be effective after the document has been officially signed. The draft document proposes a suspension for more than three months and all visa applications from the seven identified countries deemed a terrorist threat. Also, the refugees from Syria will be under a ban indefinitely. Once the process is completed, the US will only approve the immigrants / refugees which pass the security checks by the State Department, Department of Homeland Security, and Director of National Intelligence altogether. The document also states that that priority will be given to the refugees who face religious persecution, "provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion in the individual's country of nationality," which also means that

preference will be given to Christians and other minority communities living in Muslim dominated countries.

The proposed document has come under great criticism by the immigrant and refugee advocates around America. The brief has been termed as utterly islamophobic in nature, and that this action might as well give rise to alienation and anti-American sentiments in the Muslim not only in America, but around the globe. The fundamental injustice reflecting in this policy is blunt and obvious in its language, which largely targets the Muslims refugees and immigrants. Syria which has been issued the status of nation non-grata in this scenario, ironically remains the country where US is at a proxy war. The draft also points out policy which specifically targets and discriminates against Muslims. it puts forward the idea that US not only in its actions, but also in its policy, is in a confrontational state with the Muslims around the world. The Trump Administration, in its naive and haphazard approach may end opening another Pandora's box for itself by targeting Muslims. This policy approach in a longer run might as well also serve as an ideal and a proactive tool for the jihadists for more recruits.