

## SOLIDARITY SYLLABUS

### The Muslim and Refugee Bans (July 2017)

**Q: What is the Muslim/Refugee Ban?**

**A:** On January 27, Donald Trump signed an executive order that called for the suspension of the refugee program for 120 days, reduction of the number of refugees to 50,000 termination of refugee admissions from Syria, and suspension of the provision of visas to nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries for 90 days. The executive order has been roundly criticized because of its discriminatory intent and impact targeting people from particular countries and faiths, and for its dismantlement of a long-standing commitment to refugees.

**Q: How has the executive order evolved over the past six months?**

**A:** Here are some ways in which the three iterations of the executive order have evolved.

#### Muslim and Refugee Ban 1.0

- January 27 - Trump signs [first executive order](#). Airport protests begin the subsequent weekend and [lawsuits challenging the order](#) are filed. A Seattle federal judge issues a [temporary restraining order](#) against the executive order in February, which the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upholds.

#### Muslim and Refugee Ban 2.0

- March 6: Trump signs [second executive order](#) which seeks to address some of the flaws in the first order, but continues to target nationals from six Muslim-majority countries and diminishes the refugee resettlement process.
- March 15: Due to district court rulings in the *IRAP v. Trump* and *Hawaii v. Trump* cases that questioned the constitutionality of the executive order and the intent of POTUS and his advisors, Muslim and Refugee Ban 2.0 was stalled before going into effect. After failed attempts at the appellate level, the government appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

#### Muslim and Refugee Ban 3.0

- June 26 - The Supreme Court (SCOTUS) announces it will hear oral arguments on October 10 and allows the partial enforcement of the Muslim and refugee bans. In its

opinion, SCOTUS specifies that refugees and foreign nationals who have a “bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States” are exempt from the ban.

- July 12 - Muslim and Refugee Ban 3.0 goes into effect.
- July 13 - U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson (Hawaii) halts implementation of key portions of the EO. Expands narrow definitions of close familial ties and confirms refugees with “assurances” from refugee resettlement agencies are “bona fide relationships.”
- July 14 - Trump administration appeals directly to SCOTUS
- July 19 - SCOTUS left in place lower court’s definition expanding close family ties, but partially stayed Judge Watson's order that clarified that refugees with "assurances" from U.S.-based resettlements agencies are protected by the preliminary injunction of Trump's Muslim/Refugee Ban executive order.

For additional resources see this [full timeline of the Muslim/Refugee Ban](#) curated by HIAS and this [timeline of its legal implementation](#) created by Muslim Advocates and Penn State Law School.

**Q: How have people been affected by the Muslim and refugee bans?**

**A:** The executive order has had far reaching consequences. Here are just a few stories illustrating its impact:

- [Juweiya Ali](#), a 24-year-old U.S citizen, is the lead plaintiff in *Ali v. Trump*. The class action lawsuit involves four families trying to reunite with their children. Ali's son, who is seven and lives in Somalia with his grandmother, was in the final stages of receiving a visa when the ban was implemented. His visa is suspended indefinitely.
- On February 20, [Juhel Miah, a British citizen from South Wales](#) was separated from his students and colleagues and removed from a plane in Reykjavik, Iceland headed for New York. Miah was subjected to questioning, a body search, and detained for hours. He had a valid visa for travel and does not hold dual nationality.
- [An all-girls Afghan robotics team was twice denied visas](#) to compete at the FIRST Global Challenge, an international robotics competition, until Trump personally intervened.

**Q:** How is the Muslim/Refugee Ban connected to other forms of discrimination targeting people of color?

**A:** The Muslim and refugee ban is an extension of historic policies that have profiled and criminalized communities through immigration and national security policies. These include the [incarceration of Japanese Americans](#) during World War II and the [National Security Entry-Exit Registration System](#) (NSEERS) program after 9/11 that required

nationals from 25 Muslim-majority countries to report to local immigration authorities. In addition, the Muslim and refugee ban is connected to current forms of criminalization including the post 9/11 national security apparatus and surveillance infrastructure, the detentions and deportations of immigrants, and the displacement and incarceration of Black people. That is why many advocates have utilized the framework of #NoBanNoWallNoRaids to identify connections and solidarities.

**Q: What are examples of resistance that have evolved since the Muslim and refugee bans?**

**A:** Since the first Muslim and Refugee Ban was announced on January 27, there have been protests at airports and in cities, dozens of cases filed in court, and legislation introduced at the local and national level.

After the announcement of Muslim and Refugee Ban 1.0, the New York Taxi Workers Association directed its [19,000 members to participate in a strike](#) outside JFK airport in solidarity with the airport protests. In February, [Yemeni-American business owners went on strike in NYC](#) and about 1,000 bodegas and other businesses were closed as people gathered for a rally outside Borough Hall in Brooklyn.

From May 8 - 15, a coalition of Muslim and Refugee supporting organizations rallied around the [#NoMuslimBanEver Week of Action](#), which centered Muslim and Refugee voices and stories and organized rallies outside the courthouses of the 4th and 9th districts.

In addition, [CEOs of tech companies](#) and several [university presidents](#) have condemned the ban.

**Q:** How do I practice solidarity to push back on the Muslim and refugee bans?

**A:** Here are some tips from the *Solidarity Is This* podcast:

\*[Language Matters](#): Use the signifier “Muslim and refugee bans” to describe the impact of the executive order rather than a “travel ban”

\*[Statements Matter](#): Ask your place of worship, academic institution, civic organization, professional association or place of work expressed condemnation of the Muslim and refugee bans.

\*Events Matter: Coordinate a forum, discussion, or story share during the month of September to center the perspectives of refugees and communities from the 6 targeted countries. In September, National Welcoming Week (September 15-24) and the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 are times to link messages related to the Muslim and refugee bans. In addition, consider doing a rally at a local courthouse on October 10<sup>th</sup> when SCOTUS hears the case.

\*Local Ordinances Matter: In the podcast, we discuss an anti-Muslim registry ordinance that a multiracial coalition of organizations came together to advance in San Francisco. While the ordinance doesn't preempt the federal Muslim and refugee bans, it sends a message that the city of San Francisco will not engage in collecting data about people based on their nationality or faith. The [ordinance](#) prohibits the city from using its resources, funds, or personnel to create, implement, or help enforce government programs that would require people to register on the basis of religion, national origin or ethnicity. It also prevents the city from using its funds to create a database that categorizes people based on these factors. It also contains a provision enabling individuals with the right to sue the city if the ordinance has been violated. The [coalition's work](#) and the ordinance itself stand as models that other communities can replicate in their localities. The coalition that worked on it includes Americans Advancing Justice—Asian Law Caucus, the San Francisco Bay Area of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Arab Resource and Organizing Center, the Alliance of South Asians Taking Action, the National Lawyers Guild-Bay Area, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California.

\*Allies Matter: Consider writing a letter to the editor expressing your concerns about the Muslim and refugee bans in September. Stand with communities at courthouses on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Q: Where do I go for resources?**

For additional resources see the [#NoBanNoWallNoRaids website](#) which provides rapid response updates on the latest events regarding the Muslim and Refugee Ban and refers to a [list](#) of organizations who are working to lift up, document, respond to legal concerns, and organize communities.

*This Solidarity Syllabus has been produced by Deepa Iyer and Laura Li.*