



Hawaiian Judge Slaps Temporary Restraining Order Against Trump's Immigration Ban

Hawaii: US District Judge Derrick Watson, an Obama appointee, issued a temporary restraining order to block President Trump's revised travel order. This is a major blow to the President's policy just hours before it was set to go into effect. The judge said that, because the six countries that are banned in the refugee program have high Muslim populations, "targeting these countries likewise targets Islam." The Department of Justice said it will defend President Trump's executive order because it is within his authority to protect national security. -GEG

A federal judge in Hawaii has placed a nationwide block on President Trump's revised travel order, delivering a major blow to the president's policy just hours before it was set to go into effect.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson, a President Obama appointee, ruled after a hearing on Wednesday that the plaintiffs, the state of Hawaii and a Muslim leader, showed a "strong" likelihood to succeed in their lawsuit against the ban. They argue that the policy violates the Establishment Clause and proved that "irreparable harm" is likely if temporary relief is not granted.

The temporary restraining order, which will be in place while the judge considers the case, blocks the major components of the travel ban: a temporary suspension of the refugee resettlement program and a block on nationals from six majority-Muslim countries from entering the U.S. for 90 days. The policy, which Trump argues is necessary to protect national security, was set to go into effect just after midnight.

During a rally in Tennessee just after the ruling was issued, Trump vowed to fight the decision.

"We're going to take our case as far as it needs to go, including all the way up to the Supreme Court," Trump said.

"We're going to win," he continued. "The danger is clear. The law is clear. The need for my executive order is clear."

Hawaii became the first state to sue the administration over the new ban issued last week, which was designed to better stand up to legal challenges than the first version. Attorneys for the state sued over Trump's first order and argued that the revised version was still unconstitutional.

The administration made several deliberate changes designed to hold up better in court, such as dropping Iraq from the list of banned nations, scrapping an indefinite ban on Syrian refugees, removing language giving preference to religious minorities when the refugee program resumes, and specifically exempting legal U.S. residents and certain visa holders.

A major crux of Hawaii's argument is that Trump's intent behind the executive order is to institute a "Muslim ban," which they say would be a form of religious discrimination.

The government has denied that the ban targets Muslims specifically because it applies to all individuals from certain countries, an argument Watson called "equally flawed."

"The illogic of the Government's contentions is palpable," Watson wrote in the 43-page order. "The notion that one can demonstrate animus toward any group of people only by targeting all of them at once is fundamentally flawed."

"It is undisputed, using the primary source upon which the Government itself relies, that these six countries have overwhelmingly Muslim populations that range from 90.7 percent to 99.8 percent," he wrote. "It would therefore be no paradigmatic leap to conclude that targeting these countries

likewise targets Islam. Certainly, it would be inappropriate to conclude, as the Government does, that it does not.”

The plaintiffs pointed to comments made by Trump’s own adviser Stephen Miller to argue that both versions of the travel ban are “fundamentally” similar and would have the same impact.

“Fundamentally, you’re still going to have the same basic policy outcome for the country, but you’re going to be responsive to a lot of very technical issues that were brought up by the court and those will be addressed,” Miller told Fox News last month. “But in terms of protecting the country, those basic policies are still going to be in effect.”

The administration urged the court not to read into “secret motives” or the “veiled psyche” of policymakers, and said there is a difference between statements made by a candidate and an elected official.

But Watson vehemently pushed back, saying there is nothing “‘secret’ about the Executive’s motive specific to the issuance of the Executive Order.”

He pointed to Trump’s comments on the campaign trail, top ally Rudy Giuliani’s explanation of the order and a press release titled “Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States.”

“Any reasonable, objective observer would conclude, as does the Court for purposes of the instant Motion for TRO, that the stated secular purpose of the Executive Order is, at the very least, ‘secondary to a religious objective’ of temporarily suspending the entry of Muslims,” Watson stated.

The Department of Justice said in a statement that it “strongly disagrees” with the ruling, calling it “flawed both in reasoning and in scope.”

“The President’s Executive Order falls squarely within his

lawful authority in seeking to protect our Nation's security, and the Department will continue to defend this Executive Order in the courts," the DOJ said.

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After Mock Assassination, Snoop Dogg Nephew Bow Wow Threatens To Pimp Melania Trump

Rap artist 'Snoop Dogg' produced a music video that depicted the mock execution of President Trump, who was characterized as a clown. Trump says there would have been a massive outcry and jail time if Obama had been the subject of the video. Snoop Dogg's nephew, Shad 'Bow Wow' Moss, responded by calling for pimping out the First Lady of the United States, Melania Trump. -GEG

Rap artist Shad Gregory Moss, the nephew of "Snoop Dogg," stirred outrage after calling for pimping out the First Lady of the United States following a spat between the rapper's uncle and US president Donald Trump.

Moss, better known as "Bow Wow," [tweeted](#) directly at the president Wednesday saying he and his uncle @SnoopDogg would

“pimp your wife and make her work for us.”

The incident began earlier this week when Snoop featured a depiction of the president dressed as a clown in his latest music video, along with a mock execution.

Trump responded via Twitter early Wednesday rhetorically asking what the outcry would be if the same had been done to former President Barack Obama.

Can you imagine what the outcry would be if [@SnoopDogg](#), failing career and all, had aimed and fired the gun at President Obama? Jail time!

– Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) [March 15, 2017](#)

The crude comments about selling the First Lady into sex slavery come mere days after Melania [delivered](#) remarks denouncing human trafficking at an International Women’s Day luncheon.

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Trump's Executive Order Could Re-organize Or Eliminate Entire Federal Agencies

President Trump signed an executive order to examine the Executive Branch for waste. Some people fear that entire agencies could be eliminated, while others are hoping that they will be. Reductions in funding may affect conservation projects, research for alleged climate change, foreign aid, public housing, and the federal bureaucracy. –GEG

President Donald Trump signed an executive order called “Comprehensive Plan For Organizing The Executive Branch” on Monday. According to the Associated Press, [Trump signed the order to streamline the executive branch](#), saying that it aims to examine every federal department and agency “to see where the money is being wasted, how services can be improved, and whether programs are truly serving American citizens.” It was signed by the president in the Oval Office among Cabinet members.

While criticizing the wastage of monetary resources, Trump claimed that “there is duplication and redundancy everywhere.” According to Tribune Media, he said, “Today we’re beginning the process of a long-overdue [reorganizing of our federal departments and agencies](#). We’ve assembled one of the greatest cabinets in history and – I believe that so strongly – and we want to empower them to make their agencies as lean and effective as possible, and they know how to do it.”

According to the president, the Office of Management and Budget will conduct the assessment. Trump said Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney is expected to consult with experts within the government as well as the public, according to NPR. The plan would be submitted to the Congress for implementation after it is evaluated.

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The Winners And Losers Of Trump's "Skinny Budget" that Congress Has Deemed 'DOA'

President Trump presented his 'skinny budget' to reduce the size of the federal government. Reductions are proposed for the State Department, EPA, Energy Department, Transportation Department, and Agricultural Department. The budget 'winners' include a \$54-billion increase in defense spending, nuclear-weapons arsenal, veterans' health care, FBI, Justice Department, and Department of Homeland Security. Trump wants Congress to approve \$1.5 billion for the wall with Mexico. Congress seldom approves presidential budgets, and Washington insiders say this one is DOA, 'dead on arrival.' -GEG

Today at 7am, Trump released his "skinny budget", his administration's first federal budget blueprint revealing the President's plan to dramatically reduce the size of the government. As [previewed last night](#), the document calls for deep cuts at departments and agencies that would eliminate entire programs and slash the size of the federal workforce. It also proposes a \$54 billion increase in defense spending, which the White House says will be offset by the other cuts.

"This is the 'America First' budget," said White House budget

director Mick Mulvaney, a former South Carolina congressman who made a name for himself as a spending hawk before Trump plucked him for his Cabinet, adding that “if he said it in the campaign, it’s in the budget.”

In a proposal with many losers, the Environmental Protection Agency and State Department stand out as targets for the biggest spending reductions. Funding would disappear altogether for 19 independent bodies that count on federal money for public broadcasting, the arts and regional issues from Alaska to Appalachia. Trump’s budget outline is a bare-bones plan covering just “discretionary” spending for the 2018 fiscal year starting on Oct. 1. It is the first volley in what is expected to be an intense battle over spending in coming months in Congress, which holds the federal purse strings and seldom approves presidents’ budget plans.

Trump wants to spend \$54 billion more on defense, put a down payment on his border wall, and breathe life into a few other campaign promises. His initial budget outline does not incorporate his promise to pour \$1 trillion into roads, bridges, airports and other infrastructure projects. The budget directs several agencies to shift resources toward fighting terrorism and cybercrime, enforcing sanctions, cracking down on illegal immigration and preventing government waste.

The White House has said the infrastructure plan is still to come.

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