

January 4, 2018

The Honorable Rex Tillerson  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

On behalf of the undersigned coalition of Iranian American civil society, advocacy, and legal organizations, we are writing to seek clarification regarding the State Department's implementation of the waiver process outlined in Section 3(c) of President Donald J. Trump's September 24 [Proclamation](#), No. 9645, "Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry into the United States by Terrorists or other Public-Safety Threats."

Since the Supreme Court lifted the stay on the Travel Ban on December 4, the State Department has implemented both the Travel Ban on visa applicants from Chad, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen, as well as the "waiver" program described in Section 3(c) of the September 24 Proclamation.

Our organizations have received multiple reports that following the December 4 [Order](#), long-pending visa applications that had been in "administrative processing" have been denied en masse, that waivers have been almost uniformly denied, and that different Embassies and Consulates responsible for processing visas for individuals from the listed countries have been implementing the "waiver" programs differently. Based on data and information collected by our organizations, since the Supreme Court's December 4 Order, the Department of State has only granted a single waiver to an Iranian visa seeker.

We would appreciate a meeting with appropriate representatives to discuss the State Department's implementation of the "waiver" program in fuller detail and engage in a constructive conversation regarding proper implementation of the waiver programs described in Section 3(c) of the September 24 Proclamation.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response. Please forward any communications regarding this matter to: Morad Ghorban, Director of Government Relations and Policy, Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans at [Morad@PAAIA.org](mailto:Morad@PAAIA.org) or 202-828-8370.

Sincerely,

Iranian American Bar Association (IABA)  
Pars Equality Center  
Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA)