

**Subject:** Important Immigration Update: Expanded U.S. Travel Restrictions for New Countries

Greetings UAMS International Community,

We are writing to share important updates regarding expanded U.S. travel restrictions following a new Presidential Proclamation signed December 16, 2025. The new proclamation builds upon earlier travel restrictions, including the addition of more countries, and may affect members of our international community. **Please note the restrictions from new countries added to the list take effect on January 1, 2026.**

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## **U.S. Presidential Proclamation – Updated Travel Restrictions**

The new Proclamation **continues, expands, and modifies** prior travel restrictions based on recent security and vetting assessments.

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### **Countries Subject to Full Travel Restrictions**

The Proclamation **continues full entry restrictions\*\*** for nationals of the original 12 countries previously designated as high risk:

- Afghanistan
- Burma (Myanmar)
- Chad
- Republic of the Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Haiti
- Iran
- Libya
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Yemen

The Proclamation **adds full travel restrictions\*\*** for nationals of the following **five additional countries**:

- Burkina Faso
- Mali

- Niger
- South Sudan
- Syria

In addition, **full entry restrictions now apply to individuals holding Palestinian Authority–issued travel documents**, regardless of country of nationality.

The Proclamation also **elevates two countries from partial to full restrictions**:

- Laos
- Sierra Leone

**\*\* Full entry restrictions: The country remains subject to a comprehensive entry ban, meaning nationals are generally barred from entering regardless of visa type, except for narrowly defined exemptions.**

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### **Countries Subject to Partial Travel Restrictions\*\*\***

The Proclamation **continues partial restrictions\*** for nationals of the following countries:

- Burundi
- Cuba
- Togo
- Venezuela

The Proclamation **adds partial travel restrictions\*\*\*** for nationals of **15 additional countries**, which may affect specific visa categories (including B, F, M, and J visas):

- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda

- Benin
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Dominica
- Gabon
- The Gambia
- Malawi
- Mauritania
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Tanzania
- Tonga
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**\*\*\* Partial restrictions: The country remains subject to limited entry controls, meaning some categories of travelers or visas are restricted while others are still permitted under specified conditions.**

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## **Who Is Not Impacted**

The Proclamation includes important exceptions, including:

- U.S. lawful permanent residents (green card holders), and U.S. Citizens
  - Individuals who already hold valid U.S. visas
  - Certain visa categories, such as diplomats and professional athletes
  - Individuals whose entry is deemed to serve U.S. national interests
  - Dual nationals traveling on a passport from a non-restricted country
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## **Important Travel Advisory**

If you are a national of a country listed above or hold travel documents issued by the Palestinian Authority, we **strongly advise against international travel** at this time. Departing the United States may jeopardize your ability to reenter while these restrictions remain in effect.

If you are currently outside the United States and believe you may be impacted, please contact our office immediately.

For anyone planning on traveling internationally, please see our [International Travel Guidance](#) article for further information on visa stamping, documents needed, and travel tips.

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We recognize that these changes may cause uncertainty and concern. Our team is closely monitoring federal guidance and implementation details and will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

If you have questions about how this may affect your specific situation, please contact us at [AskImmigration@uams.edu](mailto:AskImmigration@uams.edu).

Kind regards,