

Donald Trump signs executive order to keep refugees, radical Islamic terrorists out of US

28/01/2017 21:35 by admin

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Friday announced new vetting measures to limit the flow of refugees and keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the country.

US President Donald Trump

He signed a wide-ranging executive order which, among other measures, bans Syrian refugees until further notice. It also put a cap of 50,000 refugees entering the US in 2017 - less than half the previous upper limit.

"I'm establishing new vetting measures to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the United States of America. We don't want them here," Trump said after he signed the executive order in his first visit to the Pentagon.

"We want to ensure that we are not admitting into our country the very threats our soldiers are fighting overseas. We only want to admit those into our country who will support our country and love deeply our people," Trump said.

"We will never forget the lessons of 9/11 nor the heroes who lost at the Pentagon. They were the best of us. We will honour them not only with our words, but with our actions, and that's what we're doing today," said Trump flanked with the new Defense Secretary Gen (rtd) James Mattis and the Vice President Mike Pence.

The executive order "Protection of The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States" notes that the steps taken by the US in the aftermath of 9/11 has not been able to deter terrorists from entering the country.

"Numerous foreign-born individuals have been convicted or implicated in terrorism-related crimes since September 11, 2001, including foreign nationals who entered the US after receiving visitor, student, or employment visas, or who entered through the US refugee resettlement program," it said.

Deteriorating conditions in certain countries due to war, strife, disaster, and civil unrest increase the likelihood that terrorists will use any means possible to enter the US, the executive order said.

The US must be vigilant during the visa-issuance process to ensure that those approved for admission do not intend to harm Americans and that they have no ties to terrorism, it said.

"In order to protect Americans, the US must ensure that those admitted to this country do not bear hostile attitudes toward it and its founding principles," the executive order said, adding that the US cannot, and should not, admit those who do not support the Constitution, or those who would place violent ideologies over American law.

In addition, the US should not admit those who engage in acts of bigotry or hatred (including "honour" killings, other forms of violence against women, or the persecution of those who practice religions different from their own) or those who would oppress Americans of any race, gender, or sexual orientation, it said.

The executive order suspends the US Refugee Admissions Programme for 120 days until it is reinstated "only for nationals of countries for whom" members of Trump's Cabinet deem can be properly vetted.

Order bars citizens from 7 Muslim nations

The order also prevents all persons from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia or Yemen from entering the country for 30 days. News reports had said that US has identified six countries " Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Yemen and Iraq " from where it would refuse to provide its visas.

With respect to countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia it would resort to extreme vetting.

As per the executive order, the list of such countries is to be expanded. It would be those countries who fail to provide information to the US about their citizens applying for a US visa.

US to prioritize Christian refugees: Trump

In an interview to Christian Broadcast Network, Trump said that he would give priority to Christian refugees. "We are going to help them," he said.

"They've been horribly treated. Do you know if you were a Christian in Syria it was impossible, at least very tough, to get into the United States? " he said.

"If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible and the reason that was so unfair, everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians. And I thought it was very, very unfair," Trump said.

- With AP Inputs