

London terror attack: Trump offers to help UK, argues for travel ban as 'extra level of safety'

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Washington: US President Donald Trump offered to help the United Kingdom after terror attacks in London and argued in favor of his controversial travel ban "as an extra level of safety."

“We need to be smart, vigilant and tough. We need the courts to give us back our rights. We need the Travel Ban as an extra level of safety,” Trump tweeted as London authorities responded to reports of a string of attacks Saturday night.

London authorities were investigating reports that a vehicle had hit pedestrians on London Bridge. Another incident took place in nearby Borough Market where stabbings were reported.

Trump began tweeting about the incidents an hour or so after initial news reports. First, he retweeted a Drudge Report item about the attacks, then provided his own message about the travel ban.

A few minutes later Trump tweeted a message of support for Londoners: “Whatever the United States can do to help out in London and the U. K., we will be there - WE ARE WITH YOU. GOD BLESS!”

Earlier this week, the Trump administration asked the Supreme Court to immediately reinstate its ban on travelers from six mostly Muslim countries and refugees from anywhere in the world. The administration argues that the U.S. will be safer if the policy is put in place.

Lower courts have blocked the Trump policy, citing various reasons including statements Trump made during the 2016 campaign. The legal fight pits the president’s authority over immigration against what lower courts have said is a policy that purported to be about national security but was intended to target Muslims.

- (With AP inputs)