



Report on the Secretary's Application of the Discretionary Authority Contained in Section 212(d)(3)(B)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act

Annual Report to Congress

Fiscal Year 2019

January 13, 2020



Homeland
Security

*U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services*



**Homeland
Security**

Foreword

January 13, 2020

I am pleased to present the following report, "Report on the Secretary's Application of the Discretionary Authority Contained in Section 212(d)(3)(B)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act," prepared by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The report provides information on the number of aliens on whose behalf the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, has determined in his sole unreviewable discretion that section 212(a)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall not apply. Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable James E. Risch
Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Michael T. McCaul
Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Mike Rogers
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Ron W. Johnson
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Please do not hesitate to contact us at (202) 447-5890 if we may be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine M. Ciccone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" being more prominent and the last name "Ciccone" following in a similar style.

CHRISTINE M. CICCONE
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

Executive Summary

This report was prepared in accordance with section 212(d)(3)(B)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). As in past reports, it summarizes the total numbers of aliens for whom the Secretary of Homeland Security has determined to exercise the discretionary authority provided at INA section 212(d)(3)(B)(i).



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I. Legislative Language

Section 212(d)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act provides:

(B)(i) The Secretary of State, after consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, may determine in such Secretary's sole unreviewable discretion that subsection (a)(3)(B) shall not apply with respect to an alien within the scope of that subsection or that subsection (a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) shall not apply to a group within the scope of that subsection, except that no such waiver may be extended to an alien who is within the scope of subsection (a)(3)(B)(i)(II), no such waiver may be extended to an alien who is a member or representative of, has voluntarily and knowingly engaged in or endorsed or espoused or persuaded others to endorse or espouse or support terrorist activity on behalf of, or has voluntarily and knowingly received military-type training from a terrorist organization that is described in subclause (I) or (II) of subsection (a)(3)(B)(vi), and no such waiver may be extended to a group that has engaged terrorist activity against the United States or another democratic country or that has purposefully engaged in a pattern or practice of terrorist activity that is directed at civilians. Such a determination shall neither prejudice the ability of the United States Government to commence criminal or civil proceedings involving a beneficiary of such a determination or any other person, nor create any substantive or procedural right or benefit for a beneficiary of such a determination or any other person. Notwithstanding any other provision of law (statutory or nonstatutory), including section 2241 of Title 28, or any other habeas corpus provision, and sections 1361 and 1651 of such title, no court shall have jurisdiction to review such a determination or revocation except in a proceeding for review of a final order of removal pursuant to section 1252 of this title, and review shall be limited to the extent provided in section 1252(a)(2)(D). The Secretary of State may not exercise the discretion provided in this clause with respect to an alien at any time during which the alien is the subject of pending removal proceedings under section 1229a of this title.

(ii) Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall each provide to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and of the Senate, the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the aliens to whom such Secretary has applied clause (i). Within one week of applying clause (i) to a group, the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a report to such Committees.

II. Data Report

During Fiscal Year 2019, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) applied 555 exemptions to individual applicants under the Secretary of Homeland Security's (Secretary) exercise of discretionary authority. Of those 555 exemptions:

- 101 were processed for applicants for lawful permanent resident status (Form I-485);
- 55 were processed for asylum applicants (Form I-589);
- 5 were processed for NACARA (Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act) applicants (Form I-881);
- 376 were processed for refugee applicants (Form I-590);
- 2 were processed for beneficiaries of petitions for derivative refugee or asylum status (Form I-730);
- 13 were processed for applicants for Temporary Protected Status (Form I-821); and
- 3 were processed for applicants for relief from removal before the U.S. Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR).

Regarding the reasons for the 555 exemptions:

- 308 were processed for an applicant's provision of material support, while under duress, to an undesignated terrorist organization as defined at INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) (Tier III organizations), under the Secretary's February 26, 2007 exercise of authority relating to undesignated terrorist organizations;
- 67 were processed for an applicant's provision of material support, while under duress, to a designated terrorist organization as defined under INA section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(I) and (II), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(I) and (II) (Tier I or II organizations), under the Secretary's April 27, 2007 exercise of authority relating to designated terrorist organizations;
- 5 were processed for an applicant's receipt of military-type training, while under duress, from a terrorist organization, under the Secretary's January 7, 2011 exercise of authority relating to Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III organizations;
- 1 was processed for an applicant's solicitation of individuals, while under duress, for a terrorist organization, under the Secretary's January 7, 2011 exercise of authority relating to Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III organizations;
- 7 were processed for an applicant's provision of voluntary medical care to members of a terrorist organization in the course of their professional responsibilities, without assisting in the violent activities of an organization or individual, under the Secretary's October 13, 2011 exercise of authority relating to Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III organizations;
- 59 were processed for applicants who provided certain limited material support under the Secretary's February 5, 2014 exercise of authority;
- 32 were processed for applicants who provided insignificant material support under the Secretary's February 5, 2014 exercise of authority;

- 22 were processed for certain qualified aliens with existing immigration benefits under the Limited General Exemption¹ who provided material support to, solicited funds for, solicited individuals for membership in, or received military-type training from certain qualified Tier III organizations, under the Secretary's August 10, 2012 exercise of authority relating to certain Tier III organizations;² and
- 54 were processed under group-based exemptions for applicants who had certain activities or affiliations with specific groups which the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, has approved for consideration of an exemption.

All applicants considered for exemptions are subject to a thorough security vetting process. USCIS procedures require that the names and fingerprints of all applicants be checked against a broad array of records of individuals known to be security threats, including the terrorist watch list, and those of law enforcement concern. In addition to rigorous background vetting, including checks coordinated across several government agencies, the Secretary's discretionary authority is only applied on a case-by-case basis after careful review of all factors and after all security checks have cleared.

Exemptions by Type and Application Type

FY 2019 Exemption Type by Application Type	
EXEMPTION	Application Type
Group-based exemption – related to the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF)	I-485 (3)
Group-based exemption – related to the Arakan Army	I-590 (1)
Group-based exemption – related to the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF)	I-485 (4)
Group-based exemption – related to the Ethiopia People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP)	I-485 (3) I-590 (1)
Group-based exemption – related to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)	I-485 (2) I-589 (1)

¹ Qualified applicants are those who were granted lawful status in the United States, other than a nonimmigrant visa, on or before to August 10, 2012, and who are not in removal proceedings or subject to a final order of removal, unless the alien is the beneficiary of an I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition. This exemption also applies to beneficiaries of asylees or refugees for whom an Form I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition has been filed by a petitioner who was granted asylum or refugee status on or before August 10, 2012. The Limited General Exemption does not apply to applicants for refugee or asylum status.

² Tier III terrorist organizations eligible for the Limited General Exemption are those that have never: (1) targeted U.S. interests or persons, including planned or attempted attacks on U.S. interests or persons; (2) engaged in a pattern or practice of torture, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2441(d)(1)(A), genocide, as described in 18 U.S.C. § 1091(a), or the use of child soldiers, as described in 18 U.S.C. § 2442; (3) have been identified in either Executive Order 13224, as amended, or otherwise designated by the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to the Specially Designated Nationals List, or in lists established by United Nations Security Council Committee pursuant to Resolutions 1267 (1999) or 1988 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; or (4) been previously designated or are currently designated as a Tier I or Tier II terrorist organization, as described in sections 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(I) or (II) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. §§ 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(I) or (II).

	I-730 (1) I-821 (1) Applicants for relief before EOIR (1)
Group-based exemption – related to the Hongsawatoi Restoration Army/Party	I-485 (1)
Group-based exemption – related to the Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA)	I-485 (1) I-590 (15)
Group-based exemption – related to the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP)	I-590 (9)
Group-based exemption – related to Lebanese Forces	I-485 (3)
Group-based exemption – related to the New Mon State Party	I-590 (2)
Group-based exemption – related to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)	I-485 (2) I-589 (2)
Group-based exemption – related to the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)	I-485 (1)
Limited General Exemption	I-485 (21) I-730 (1)
Certain Limited Material Support	I-485 (2) I-589 (1) I-590 (54) I-821 (1) I-881 (1)
Insignificant Material Support	I-485 (18) I-589 (1) I-590 (13)
Exemption for Material Support to Tier I or II Under Duress	I-485 (7) I-589 (6) I-590 (50) I-821 (4) Applicants for relief before EOIR (2)
Exemption for Material Support to Tier III Under Duress	I-485 (28) I-589 (43) I-590 (226) I-821 (6) I-881 (3)
Exemption for Medical Care	I-485 (1) I-589 (1) I-590 (5)
Exemption for Receipt of Military Type Training Under Duress from Tier I, II, or III Organization	I-485 (3) I-821 (1) I-881 (1)
Exemption for Solicitation of Individuals Under Duress from Tier I, II, or III, Organization	I-485 (1)
TOTAL	555