

EXPLORING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S CONTINUOUS VETTING FOR VISA HOLDERS

In August 2025, the Trump Admin. announced a policy of “continuous vetting” of all U.S. visa holders for potential violations that violate their conditions to stay in the United States.

Did you know?...

- In February 2024, Moctar Ahmadou, a citizen of Niger, was [sentenced](#) to 78 months in federal prison for illegal firearm possession. Ahmadou held a non-immigrant F1 visa and violated the terms of his visa with the possession of firearms. At his hearing, the court learned about Ahmadou's “downloading of jihad videos including beheadings and that he discussed the possibility of traveling to Palestine to commit jihad.”
- In February 2025, Mackendy Darbouze was [arrested](#) after police found three deceased individuals and a bloody knife at a residence and charged him with three counts of first-degree murder. Darbouze entered the U.S. legally and was held by ICE while in custody for murder.
- In January 2025, Piero Estefano But-Castillo was [charged](#) with murder, resisting an officer with violence, battery, and criminal mischief after he fatally beat 55-year-old Robert Krusinowski at a motel in Kissimmee, Florida. But-Castillo originally entered the U.S. in 2019 as a non-immigrant student, left, then returned January 1, 2025, on a 90-day tourist visa. The murder occurred on January 8, 2025 (one week after re-entry).



6,000 Student Visas Revoked in August Amid Crime and Terror Concerns

According to the State Department, this effort includes analysis such as “any indicators of overstay, criminal activity, threats to public safety, engaging in any form of terrorist activity, or providing support to a terrorist organization.”

In August, the State Department [announced](#) the revocation of more than 6,000 student visas due to issues including overstay, assault, burglary, and support for terrorism.

Exploring The Trump Administration's Continuous Vetting For Visa Holders

Executive Summary

In August 2025, the Trump Administration announced a policy of “continuous vetting” of all U.S. visa holders for potential violations which violate their visas to stay in the United States.

The federal government has identified individuals who have committed a variety of violent crimes, including murder and support for terrorism, while holding immigration visas.

Additionally, the Trump Administration has worked to rescind immigration permissions for people who had been granted visas or green cards but failed to properly disclose criminal or legal issues which led to them improperly receiving their visas.

Proposed Actions By The Trump Administration

As part of their initiative to ensure proper implementation of U.S immigration laws, the Department of State has expanded vetting processes for visa holders in the United States.

- In August 2025, the Trump Administration [announced](#) a policy of “continuous vetting” of all U.S. visas holders for potential violations that could result in deportations. According to the State Department, this effort includes analysis such as “any indicators of overstays, criminal activity, threats to public safety, engaging in any form of terrorist activity, or providing support to a terrorist organization.”
- Additionally in August, the State Department [announced](#) the revocation of more than 6,000 student visas due to issues including overstays, assault, burglary, and support for terrorism.
- In April 2025, the Trump administration [revoked](#) 4,000 student visas from foreign nationals accused of criminal activities that include severe offenses like robbery, DUI, child endangerment, domestic abuse, arson, and wildlife and human trafficking.

Violent Crimes Committed By Visa Holders

Over the past few years, individuals who hold visas have committed a variety of crimes, including murder and support for terrorism.

- In January 2025, Piero Estefano But-Castillo was [charged](#) with murder, resisting officer with violence, battery, and criminal mischief after he fatally beat 55-year-old Robert Krusinowski at a motel in Kissimmee, Florida. But-Castillo originally entered U.S. in 2019 as non-immigrant student, left, then returned January 1, 2025, on 90-day tourist visa. The murder occurred on January 8, 2025 (one week after re-entry).
- In February 2024, Moctar Ahmadou, a citizen of Niger, was [sentenced](#) to 78 months in federal prison for illegal firearm possession. Ahmadou held a nonimmigrant F1 visa and violated the terms of his visa with the firearms possession. At his hearing, the court learned about Ahmadou's “downloading of

jihad videos including beheadings and that he discussed the possibility of traveling to Palestine to commit jihad.”

- In February 2025, Mackendy Darbouze was [arrested](#) after police found three deceased individuals and a bloody knife at a residence and charged him with three counts of first degree murder. Darbouze entered the U.S. legally and was held by ICE while in custody for murder.

Improperly Staying In The United States

In 2025, the Trump Administration has found numerous examples of individuals in the United States on visas or green cards who were not eligible to remain in the country due to previous charges or clerical errors.

- In July 2025, a graduate student at Marshall University had his visa [revoked](#) in 2025 due to a misdemeanor DUI conviction from 2020. The student had been granted a student visa after the DUI occurred
- In March 2025, Ranjani Srinivasan, a Columbia PhD student, had her visa [revoked](#) for being arrested during pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Srinivasan failed to disclose the summons on her visa renewal form, leading to its revocation. The DHS accused her of advocating for "violence and terrorism" Later, Srinivasan fled to Canada after ICE agents came to her door.
- In March 2025, Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University activist and green card holder, was [arrested](#) after participating in a pro-Palestinian protest. After his arrest, immigration authorities accused him of fraud in his green card application due to a failure to disclose his previous work with UNRWA and other international groups
- In April 2025, Mohammed Hoque, a Bangladesh national in the United States on a F-1 Student Visa, was [detained](#) by immigration authorities due to the overturning of his visa after DHS reviewed previous charges of disorderly conduct and fifth-degree assault, finding Hoque to be a “threat to U.S. public safety.”
- In April 2025, Aditya Harsono, an Indonesian national who was in the United States on a Student Visa, was [arrested](#) due to the repeal of his visa after the government identified him as a public safety threat over a 2022 misdemeanor vandalism conviction and a 2021 arrest at a George Floyd protest.