

# #NoBanAct

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## More than 100 American Victims of Muslim Ban

On September 24th, 2019, a joint hearing on the impact of the Muslim Ban is scheduled with the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Below are **more than 100 stories of American families impacted by** from across the nation.

### Alaska

**Anchorage, AK** - Shokrollah Hassani is a permanent resident who is separated from his wife, who has been stuck in the visa process for three years. (Source: [in-it](#), contact: [shiva@in-it.com](mailto:shiva@in-it.com))

### Arizona

**Chandler, AZ** - Erfan Mohammadi is a chemical engineering student whose parents are unable to visit or attend his graduation in the U.S. He was also temporarily separated from his fiancé who experienced delays in obtaining her student visa. (Source: [Daily Illini](#))

**Tempe, AZ** - Maral Charkhtab Tabrizi is a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. and an Iranian-American who is being denied the help and support of her Iranian parents as she raises a newborn and works a full-time job, all while suffering from a chronic and painful medical condition. She is a plaintiff in *Emami v. Trump*. (Source: [Muslim Advocates](#), contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

**Tempe, AZ** - Asmaa Khadem Al Arbaiin, an English student, was denied a visa to enter the U.S. from Istanbul, keeping her apart from her husband, Ramez Alghazzouli. (Source: [Huffington Post](#))

*The sources of all stories are referenced. For more information on following up with sources, please reach out to [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org).*

**Tucson, AZ** - Shaghayegh Ansari was born in Iran and lives in Arizona. His mother and his father, diagnosed with brain cancer, were prevented from coming to the U.S. to see their son. (Source: [ACLU](#))

## Arkansas

**Little Rock, AR** - Mohammed Al-Awadhi came to the U.S. in 2007 and is an internal medicine physician at a hospital in Little Rock, AR. His wife Rasha had her visa interview in Djibouti in Dec. 2017. Rasha was living in Sanaa at the time, and the nearby airport was no longer functioning. Despite having rheumatic heart disease and unreliable access to medicine, Rasha traveled for one month across risky desert borders and airline layovers in three different countries in order to get to Djibouti for the interview. Consular officers told her she would be granted a visa, but, when she returned to pick it up a few weeks later, they informed her it must be denied because the Muslim Ban had gone into effect. They were then told a waiver had been granted, but then received no response from the embassy. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

## California

**Citrus Heights, CA** - Mike Izadjou's fiance Shala has been living abroad, unable to join him while she waits for her visa to be processed. (Source: [Fox 40](#))

**San Jose, CA** - Bamshad Azizi is a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. whose Iranian parents are recovering from cancer and surgery. Because of the Muslim Ban, they may live the rest of their lives without being able to visit their family in the United States. Bamshad is a plaintiff in *Emami v. Trump*. ([Muslim Advocates](#), contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

**Antioch, CA** - Mania Aghdasi's father lived abroad and was unable to visit her in the U.S. following the death of his son because his case was in administrative processing. Aghdasi was eventually able to visit him in Iran before he passed away. ([Mother Jones](#))

**Azusa, CA** - Laura Kakish is a U.S.-born citizen. Her husband previously lived in the U.S. for 16 years on a student visa and left after completing his education. However, now he can't get a visa to come live with his wife. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

**Bakersfield, CA** - The mother of Angham Aldawood, who was hit by a car and has deteriorating health, has not been able to come to the U.S. to be with her daughter and her family. (Source: [The Californian](#))

**Berkeley, CA** - Marzieh Mirmobini is a permanent resident studying in the U.S. who is separated from his husband, who can't obtain a visa. (Source: [in-it](#), contact: [shiva@in-it.com](mailto:shiva@in-it.com))

**Huntington Beach, CA** - Farzan Nematollah's wife lives in Iran and is dealing with worsening health conditions but the waiver process has kept them from living together. (Source: [KTLA](#))

**Irvine, CA** - Mehrshad Alexander Mehrdad is a U.S. citizen living in California. His fiancé can't get a visa to come live with him and the stress of her immigration circumstances is causing her mental and physical health problems. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

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**Irvine, CA** - Amin Sirati and Shamim Darchini met in Iran in 2013 and married two years later. Amin has been unable to join his wife who resides in California because his waiver has been pending. (Source: [CNN](#))

**La Jolla, CA** - Mohammad Reza Mirzaeian, a 75-year-old man living in the United Arab Emirates with failing health has not been able to join his wife and son in California. (Source: [Voice of San Diego](#))

**Los Angeles, CA** - Ehsan Momeni lives in the U.S. on a student visa who is separated from his mother, who can't come to the U.S. to visit her son because of the Muslim Ban. (Source: [in-it](#), contact: [shiva@in-it.com](mailto:shiva@in-it.com))

**Los Angeles, CA** - Alia Ali, an artist and U.S. citizen, was unable to travel to Yemen to visit her dying grandmother. (Source: [artnet](#))

**Oakland, CA** - Shaima Swileh's husband, Ali, is an American citizen. Their two-year-old son was dying of a degenerative brain condition, and Shaima's waiver application was pending. After intense social and traditional news media coverage, Shaima's waiver was granted and she was able to enter the U.S. to be with her son when he died. (Source: [New York Times](#))

**San Diego, CA** - The mother of Dhana Nur, a Somali immigrant, was denied a visa and has been separated from her son and his family. (Source: [San Diego Union-Tribune](#))

**San Diego, CA** - The elderly, ailing father of Sawyer Mirage, a U.S. citizen living in California, has not been able to obtain a visa to leave Iran and live with his family in the U.S. (Source: [Voice of San Diego](#))

**San Diego, CA** - Leili Mortazavi is an undergraduate student at the University of British Columbia and an Iranian citizen. She was chosen to present at the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) meeting in San Diego but was unable to obtain a visa. (Source: [Ars Technica](#))

**San Francisco, CA** - Maryam Mozafari lives in California and wanted her parents, both of whom live abroad, to visit and provide support while she was pregnant. Even though her parents had visited the U.S. as recently as 2014 and left the country well in advance of the expiration of their visas, her father was forced to spend months submitting documents and navigating red tape only to have his visa denied. Her mother was only able to come visit for a short time because her husband, Maryam's father, suffers from a heart condition which requires that he be accompanied at all times. She is a plaintiff in *Emami v. Trump*. (Source: Muslim Advocates, contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

**San Francisco, CA** - Hedieh Ekhlesi is a U.S. citizen living in California. Ekhlesi's parents are unable to visit because they can't obtain an immigrant visa. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

**San Francisco, CA** - Anas Tresh is a medical student at the University of California whose grandmother is unable to visit him and other family members as she lives in Libya. (Source: [New York Daily News](#))

**Stanford, CA** - Murad Subay and his wife Hadil, who is studying at Stanford University, are unable to visit one another for fear that she would not be allowed back into the U.S. after travelling to Yemen. (Source: [Al Jazeera](#))

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**Redlands, CA** - Hani Fouladgar's sister is a medical school graduate living in Iran who is unable to come to the U.S. to be with her family. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

**California** - Nageeb Alomari is a U.S. citizen whose Yemeni daughter who suffers from severe cerebral palsy. She can't speak or move on her own. She also needs to take medicine four to five times a day to keep her muscles relaxed and to keep her from having spasms. But she was living in Yemen, where there was a shortage of medicine. Nageeb went to Yemen to wait with his family for their visa application to be adjudicated. After a five-minute interview in Djibouti, their visas were denied. One day before Supreme Court arguments about the ban, Shaema's waiver was approved. In May 2018, she arrived in the United States. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

**California** - The two-year-old son of Abdullah Hassan and Shaima Swileh was fighting a degenerative brain disease. Swileh, a Yemeni woman living in Egypt, struggled to obtain a waiver and was only granted one and allowed into the U.S. to embrace her son in his dying days after a great deal of publicity and public pressure. (Source: [Hartford Courant](#))

**California** - An immigrant from Yemen living in the U.S. and working as a dentistry professor was diagnosed with leukemia. His relatives from Yemen needed to come to the U.S. to be matched as bone marrow donors but had trouble obtaining visas. (Source: [San Gabriel Valley Tribune](#))

**California** - Mohammadhossein Moshkelgosha is a doctor living in Iran who passed the United States Medical Licensing Examination. He has been unable to come to the U.S. to live with his wife, a legal permanent resident of the U.S. since 2013. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

## Colorado

**Colorado** - Dena Rezaie's parents live abroad and are unable to come to the U.S. to meet her husband or attend her graduation. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

**Colorado** - Maral Jalili is unable to travel abroad to see her parents and they are unable to come to the U.S. to see her. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

**Colorado** - Dena Rezaei's parents have been unable to come to the U.S. to see their daughter and her husband, who they have never met. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

## District of Columbia

**Washington, DC** - Said Hajouli, a trainee doctor from Aleppo, was separated from his wife. (Source: [CNN](#))

**Washington, DC** - Muhamad Alhaj Moustafa, a trainee doctor at a hospital in Washington, D.C., is staying in the U.S. on a cultural exchange. He was separated from his visiting wife because of the Muslim Ban. (Source: [CNN](#))

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## Florida

**Florida** - Arefeh is a legal permanent resident living in Florida. She was set to marry her fiancé, a U.S. citizen, and wanted her Iranian mother and sister to be there with her. Both applied for visitor visas, but were denied at their visa interviews. Embassy officials told them that Arefeh's wedding was not enough to get around the Muslim Ban and they had to give up trying to come in time for Arefeh's wedding. (Source: Muslim Advocates, contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

## Georgia

**Clarkston, GA** - Hesham Al Madwami and his wife are unable to visit his family in Yemen because of the Muslim Ban. (Source: [CNN](#))

**Clarkston, GA** - Habiba Mohamed and Abdalla Munye, immigrants who live in Clarkston, Georgia, were prevented from bringing their daughter to the U.S. (Source: [CNN](#))

**Marietta, GA** - Newsha Tavakoli's husband, Mohamad Esnaashari, has not been able to obtain a green card and leave Iran to join his wife. (Source: [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#))

**Stone Mountain, GA** - Belal Rajab, a Syrian immigrant living in Georgia, was separated from his family. (Source: [CNN](#))

**Georgia** - Mahshid Soltani is unable to travel to see his parents and they are unable to come visit him in the U.S. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

## Illinois

**Champaign-Urbana, IL** - Setareh Taki is an engineering student who is unable to visit her family in Iran for fear of not being able to continue her education in the U.S. (Source: [Daily Illini](#))

**Chicago, IL** - Sarvin Haghghi was born in Iran and, after traveling to Australia to see her family, was prevented from returning to the U.S., where she lives with her husband. (Source: [ACLU](#))

**Chicago, IL** - Mahsa Izadmehr is an Iranian doctoral student in engineering at the University of Illinois-Chicago who went seven years without seeing her sister who lives in Switzerland. (Source: [Reuters](#))

## Indiana

**Bloomington, IN** - Babak Seradjeh, an associate professor of physics at Indiana University, had to cancel a research trip to Tel Aviv because of travel restrictions. (Source: [CNN](#))

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**West Lafayette, IN** - Mina Ostovari is a student who is afraid to travel to Iran to see her elderly mother and ill father due to fears that the Muslim Ban will prevent her from returning. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

## Louisiana

**Crowley, LA** - Mahmood Salem moved his family from Yemen to Djibouti in 2016. Their visas were approved in Nov. 2017, but the ban went into effect before they could be issued, and they were subsequently denied. Mahmood died by suicide after his wife and two oldest children were denied visas. The government issued waivers for them five days after his suicide. They arrived in the U.S. too late to attend his funeral. (Source: [NBC News](#))

## Maryland

**Baltimore, MD** - Abdollah Dehzangi is a permanent resident and a professor at Morgan State University who is separated from his wife, who lives abroad. His wife has a PhD and has secured a job in the U.S. as a researcher but can't come here. (Source: [in-it](#), contact: [shiva@in-it.com](mailto:shiva@in-it.com))

**Bethesda, MD** - Leila Sasantour and her husband live in the U.S. but her parents' green card has not yet been processed to allow them to visit. This has slowed Leila's schooling and made it more difficult for her to care for her baby. (Source: [The Sentinel](#))

**Germantown, MD** - Jessica Monfared is a U.S. citizen separated from her Iranian husband who is living abroad. (Source: [in-it](#), contact: [shiva@in-it.com](mailto:shiva@in-it.com))

**Rockville, MD** - Mitra Farnoodian-Tedrick lives in Rockville, Maryland with her husband, a U.S. citizen. Her mother and father, who both live in Iran, are unable to obtain visas to see their daughter. This forced Mitra and her husband to cancel the wedding celebration and endure thousands of dollars in expenses due to non-refundable deposits, filing fees, travel costs and other visa-related costs as well as significant emotional distress from having to celebrate their wedding without their closest relatives. (Source: Muslim Advocates, contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

**Maryland** - Garey Stewart is a U.S. citizen and his wife Yasaman is an Iranian citizen. They both live in Finland. In 2017, they had planned on visiting the U.S. for Garey's birthday and to see his family for the first time since their wedding. However, her visa was rejected pursuant to the Muslim Ban. Garey very much wants Yasaman to meet one of his aunts, who is 96-years-old, and he fears they are missing their last chance to be with her together. (Source: Muslim Advocates, contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

**Maryland** - Zahra Heidari is a student living in the U.S. Her father has been unable to obtain a visa to visit her even though he previously was granted one. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

## Massachusetts

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**Boston, MA** - 16-year-old Syrian refugee who was disfigured in a bomb attack on her home in Syria. German doctors encouraged her to get more sophisticated medical treatment in the U.S. following 13 operations to repair trauma from third-degree burns to her face, arms, and chest. In Dec. 2018, U.S. denied her visa, claiming that there was not enough evidence to prove Marwa would return to Germany after her medical treatment. (Source: [The Guardian](#))

**Boston, MA** - Raya Bidshahri, previously a student at Boston University, was separated from her family and worried about being forced to leave the U.S. when her student visa expired because of the Muslim Ban. She later moved to Toronto. (Source: [Toronto Life](#))

**Boston, MA** - Pooyan Kazemian's parents are unable to travel to visit their son in the U.S. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

**Lowell, MA** - Rafal Thaher's brother and his family live abroad and are waiting for his visa to be approved. (Source: [CNN](#))

## Michigan

**Ann Arbor, MI** - Maryam Bahrami moved to the U.S. to live with her husband but her parents living abroad can't visit her because of the Muslim Ban. (Source: [in-it](#), contact: [shiva@in-it.com](mailto:shiva@in-it.com))

**Detroit, MI** - Mohamed Mohsin, an American citizen, sought to bring his wife and children to the U.S. from Yemen. His children's visas were approved but his wife's was not, forcing him to send his children to Michigan to stay in three different homes, while Mohamed and his wife wait in Djibouti. (Source: [NPR](#))

**Michigan** - In August 2017, Olivia Cross was informed that her husband Yahya's case was in administrative processing. As of January 2019, they still have not heard anything. The young couple celebrated their third wedding anniversary in February. They did it over Skype, where they maintain a virtual relationship, but time and distance are taking a toll. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

## Minnesota

**Minneapolis, MN** - Zaynab Abdi came from Yemen to Minnesota to escape political unrest. Zaynab's sister also tried to come to the U.S. but her visa was denied because of the Muslim Ban. (Source: [Star Tribune](#))

## Nebraska

**Nebraska** - Sahar Toluee has not been able to see her parents, who live abroad, for five years because of the Muslim Ban. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

## New Jersey

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**Paramus, NJ** - Poopak Mohajer's brother and his family have been living abroad, unable to join her as their visa process has been stalled. (Source: [North Jersey](#))

**Rutherford, NJ** - Raziye Aghakhanikhanghah has been living abroad, unable to join her husband Emad Kazerani because her waiver has been processing since July 2018. (Source: [WTOP](#))

**New Jersey** - Brian Swank is a U.S. citizen separated from his Iranian fiancé who is living abroad. (Source: [in-it](#), contact: [shiva@in-it.com](mailto:shiva@in-it.com))

**New Jersey** - Siamak Garabaglu's wife has been living abroad, unable to join her husband in New Jersey. He owns a pizza franchise there and hopes to stay where he has had career success. (Source: [Marketplace](#))

## New York

**Brooklyn, NY** - Ismail Alghazali is a U.S. citizen stranded in Djibouti with his Yemeni wife and newborn son because his wife's visa application was denied due to the ban. He is a plaintiff in *Emami v. Trump*. (Source: [Muslim Advocates](#), contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Mugeeb Alrubees's mother has been living abroad apart from her son, waiting for her visa to be processed. (Source: [Marketplace.org](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Shamsuddeen Aldubai was forced to leave behind two of his sons in Yemen to join his wife and the rest of their family. One of his sons was killed in a car accident and he is still waiting for his other son's visa to be processed. (Source: [Marketplace.org](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Mohamed Alahiry married his wife in Yemen in 2005, and he split his time between Sanaa and Brooklyn for nearly a decade. When war broke out, he began the process of bringing his wife and their four children to the United States. His wife's visa application stalled, and the family fled to Egypt in 2017. Mohamed visited in October 2018, and got in a car crash. He and three of his daughters then returned to the United States. After seven surgeries, Mohamed couldn't work, and had to send two of his daughters to live with his brother in North Carolina. One daughter remains in Egypt with his wife. His wife has a visa interview on April 17, 2019. (Source: [Huffington Post](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Mohammed is a U.S. citizen. His wife and five-year-old daughter Aziza had visa interviews in Djibouti in October 2017. A few days later, they granted his daughter's visa. But Aziza's processing took three months, and ended with a visa rejection and waiver denial. Mohammed and his daughter have returned to the U.S., and Aziza has gone to Jordan to stay with Mohammed's brother. They don't know when they'll have a future together as a family again. (Source: [The Nation](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - The wife of Ahmed Almuliki has not been able to come to the U.S. and join her husband, a U.S. citizen. (Source: [The Daily Beast](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Sarsan Saleh was granted a visa to see her husband, Hussain Saleh, in the U.S. but the visa was delayed and then revoked after the Muslim Ban went into effect. (Source: [The Daily Beast](#))

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**Brooklyn, NY** - The wife of Mohamed Alahiri has not been able to come to the U.S. to be with her husband and children. The husband is suffering poor health from a car accident and their youngest daughter is under tremendous stress. (Source: [The Daily Beast](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Shahab Mothena's wife and children have been living abroad in Egypt waiting for their visas to be processed so they can be reunited. (Source: [Marketplace.org](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Amena Abdulkarem is living abroad, unable to join her husband, Sadek Ahmed, or her two sons living in the U.S. because she has not yet received her visa. (Source: [US News](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Mahdis Keshavarz's relatives were unable to visit her father in the U.S. when he fell ill and passed away. (Source: [artnet news](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Ahmed Al Mulaiki is a U.S. citizen whose wife is unable to come to the U.S. to live with him. Mulaiki recently underwent open-heart surgery and is experiencing serious health problems, and fears he may die without seeing his wife again. (Source: [Daily Beast](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Basheer Othman is living in Malaysia, unable to move to the U.S. where his wife is residing because he is waiting for his visa. (Source: [The Nation](#))

**Brooklyn, NY** - Sarah Imani, who recently earned her MFA and is living in New York, is unable to leave the U.S. to see her family in Canada or she will not be allowed to reenter. (Source: [artnet news](#))

**Buffalo, NY** - Samira Sheikholeslami's parents are not able to travel to the U.S. to visit their daughter and had to miss her wedding. Her husband's father also died while trying to come to the U.S. for the wedding. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

**New York City, NY** - Mohamed Al is an American-born Yemeni man who lives in New York City and has four daughters who are U.S. citizens. He is struggling to reunite with his wife, who is abroad. His health has been in critical condition while his wife's case has been stuck in processing at a U.S. embassy. (Source: [Huffington Post](#))

**New York City, NY** - Ali Mohsen is a U.S. citizen whose family migrated to the United States in 1931 and whose grandfather fought for the U.S. in World War II. His wife currently lives in Djibouti and is taking care of their three U.S.-born children. Because she was born in Yemen, she is unable to come to the U.S. along with her children. (Source: Yemeni American Merchants Association, contact: [ayyad@yamausa.org](mailto:ayyad@yamausa.org))

**New York City, NY** - Shirin Estahbanati is an Iranian student living in the U.S. who is afraid to leave the country to see her father who had a heart attack. (Source: [Reuters](#))

**New York City, NY** - Ammar Haj Ahmad from Syria and Moein Ghobsheh and Yasin Moradi from Iran are actors in a British play "The Jungle" about a French refugee camp. They were initially unable to obtain visas to travel with the show to New York. (Source: [New York Times](#))

**New York City, NY** - Ahmad Sharifabrizi's wife lives abroad and if she is unable to receive a visa, Ahmad plans to leave the US to be with her. (Source: [Al Jazeera](#))

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## North Carolina

**North Carolina** - Sara Moein came to the U.S. to obtain a PhD. Her mother has been unable to come visit her. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

## North Dakota

**Wells Fargo, ND** - Deborah Vosseteig's daughter Sarah met and married an Iranian refugee while living abroad in Turkey. The husband and his mother are registered refugees with the U.N. but have not been able to come to the U.S. Deborah's other daughter, a resident of North Dakota, is also engaged to the brother of Sarah's husband, who was born in Iran and can't come to the U.S. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

## Ohio

**Columbus, OH** - At just five years old, Aden Hassan and his mother fled violence in Somalia and lived on a refugee camp in Kenya for almost 20 years. After an extensive vetting process, both Aden and his mother were approved to be resettled in Columbus, Ohio. Aden arrived first in January 2017 but the Muslim Ban prevented his mother from being able to come to the U.S. to be with her son. Aden is worried for his mother, as she has a heart condition as well as diabetes and he was previously responsible for accompanying his mother to medical appointments. (Source: [Columbus Dispatch](#))

**Columbus, OH** - Khadra Abdo, a Muslim mother of seven, was separated from her five oldest children after fleeing from strife in Somalia and then Libya. The children have yet to receive permission to come to the U.S. (Source: [Religion News Service](#))

**Columbus, OH** - Mohamad Zandian is a doctoral student in biochemistry at Ohio State University. His wife Parisa was detained at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. (Source: [CNN](#))

**OHIO** - Mari Khoury is an American citizen from Ohio. When her husband, Fadi, was denied a visa and placed in administrative processing, Mari and their young daughter Suzanne moved to Syria to be with Fadi while they await the waiver adjudication. (Source: [Irish Times](#))

## Pennsylvania

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**Philadelphia, PA** - Joana Birkner is a U.S. citizen separated from her Syrian fiancé who is stuck in Istanbul. (Source: [in-it](#), contact: [shiva@in-it.com](mailto:shiva@in-it.com))

**Philadelphia, PA** - Zaina Erhaim is a Syrian journalist living in London. She was invited to UPenn in Summer 2018 as part of a new annual program that brings journalists who are “under threat and working in crisis conditions” to Penn to host speaking events. Zaina received an invitation from the State Department to enter the U.S., but was then denied a visa pursuant to the Muslim Ban. Her waiver was approved approximately one week after a UPenn student newspaper published an article about the issue. (Source: [Daily Pennsylvanian](#))

**Philadelphia, PA** - Fereshteh Abbasi is separated from her husband Chris Gibson, who lives in the U.S. (Source: [The Guardian](#))

**Pennsylvania:** Ghazal Eskandnai's grandmother has been unable to come to the U.S. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

## Rhode Island

**Providence, RI** - Dr. Khaled Almilaji, a master's student at Brown University, traveled to Turkey during his winter break just before the Muslim Ban was enacted to work with local aid organizations. He has been unable to reenter the U.S. to finish his studies. (Source: [Vox](#))

## South Dakota

**Sioux Falls, SD** - Mohamed Ali Ahmed's family is living in a refugee camp in Kenya, unable to join him in the U.S. because of the ban. If he had not left his family, he also would not have had the chance to resettle in the U.S. (Source: [Argus Leader](#))

## Tennessee

**Memphis, TN** - Payam Moein's parents have not been able to visit him and his pregnant wife and they missed his wedding. Moein is also afraid to travel to Iran to visit his cancer-stricken father. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

**Nashville, TN** - Ashkan Ghafari has been living abroad, unable to join his wife Maryan Asadi Tari in the U.S. because he is waiting to be approved for a visa. (Source: [WTOP](#))

## Texas

**Houston, TX** - Abdurraouf Gseaa is Libyan-American whose pregnant wife is stuck in war-torn Libya. While they await adjudication of her waiver request, he is forced to travel back and forth constantly in order to be with her during her pregnancy. He is a plaintiff in *Emami v. Trump*. (Source: [Muslim Advocates](#), contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

*The sources of all stories are referenced. For more information on following up with sources, please reach out to [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org).*

**Houston, TX** - Majid Jamshid Zadeh lives in Houston and his wife is a licensed doctor living in Iran who can't come to the U.S. (Source: [Washington Post](#))

**Texas** - Mikhak Aliani's parents are unable to travel from Iran to visit because of the Muslim Ban. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

## Utah

**Utah** - The grandmother of Satin Tashnizi refused to travel to Europe for her youngest daughter's wedding because she was afraid she wouldn't be allowed back in even though she is a U.S. citizen (Source: [Salt Lake Tribune](#))

## Virginia

**Gainesville, VA** - Najib Adi is a U.S. citizen and a dentist practicing in Virginia. The Muslim Ban forced him to miss his father's funeral and is preventing his mother from leaving war-torn Syria to be with her son. He is a plaintiff in *Emami v. Trump*. (Source: [Muslim Advocates](#), contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

**Virginia** - The father of Sepideh Kazemi's husband was sick and was not able to travel to the U.S. to attend his son's graduation ceremony. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

**Virginia** - Tara Azadikhah is separated from her fiancé, who is unable to obtain a Visa. (Source: National Iranian American Council, contact: [donna@niacaction.org](mailto:donna@niacaction.org))

**Virginia** - Muhamad Moustafa and Nabila Moustafa are Syrian nationals living in the U.S. on J-1 and J-2 visas. Nabila Moustafa was detained just after the Muslim Ban took effect after flying back from Qatar after visiting her ailing mother. She was later deported. (Source: [ABC News](#))

**Virginia** - Mohsen Khosravi says he is afraid to leave the U.S. and cannot see his father, who lives in Iran. (Source: [DCist](#))

## Washington

**Kirkland, WA** - Sudi Wardere is a Somalian-American who is forced to raise her child on her own because of the Muslim Ban. Her husband has been awaiting a response on his visa and waiver application since February. Her husband was unable to be a part of the birth of their child, and to this day, he has never met his child. She is a plaintiff in *Emami v. Trump*. (Source: [Muslim Advocates](#), contact: [naheed@muslimadvocates.org](mailto:naheed@muslimadvocates.org))

**Seattle, WA** - Shohreh Kohbanani works two minimum-wage jobs to care for her disabled father. She hasn't seen her Iranian husband, Hamid, for two years. They were in the process of preparing Hamid's visa application when the first ban came down in January 2017. They have no idea when they will be reunited. Hamid's Turkish visa is expiring shortly. He fears returning to Iran because Shohreh is Baha'i, a persecuted minority in Iran. (Source: [Daily Mail](#))

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**Seattle, WA** - 73-year-old retiree Pamela Raghebi's husband, Afshin, left Iran 20 years ago. He had been undocumented in the U.S. prior to marrying Pamela. After their marriage, she petitioned for a green card on his behalf. This was approved, but Afshin had to leave the U.S., get a re-entry waiver (for which he was approved) and then a Muslim Ban waiver (for which he wasn't approved). He's now stuck in Turkey. (Source: [Seattle Times](#))

**Seattle, WA** - Rad Cyrus, an Iranian Immigrant living in the U.S. is separated from his wife Ghdas "Samira" Mohammadkani. (Source: [Seattle Times](#))

**Seattle, WA** - Mohammad Taha Bahadori is an artificial-intelligence researcher working at Amazon who is separated from his wife. (Source: [Seattle Times](#))

**Seattle, WA** - Houtan Neynavaee is a Microsoft engineer, a U.S. citizen and a Christian convert who fears going to Iran to see his parents. (Source: [Seattle Times](#))

**Tacoma, WA** - Rasha Alawadhi, a woman from Yemen with two serious heart conditions, had trouble coming to the U.S. to receive medical care and be with her husband Mohammed Alawadhi. (Source: [USA Today](#))

## Wisconsin

**Milwaukee, WI** - Ricky Smith got married in Canada, where wife Mona is getting a PhD in organic chemistry. Ricky visits every few months. Smith feels he has explored every conceivable avenue to bring Khorasani to the U.S. so they can start their life together. (Source: [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#))