

Constituent: Keyvan Parsa

Constituents fiancé: Mahsa Mousaei (Travel ban victim)

Visa Type: K1

Consular Section U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi and Department of State DC

Country: Iran

Documents requested during interview: Social Media Information, Resume: PHD Student, Passport

Hardships: Fiancé Mahsa Mousaei suffers from symptoms of anxiety, impatience, lack of concentration, energy deficiency, and lack of sleep quality.

Start of process: on or about April 2018.

Congressional Response to Mr. Parsa's request for a status update on his wife's application.

August 15, 2019

The Office of the Honorable Veronica Escobar

Dear Mariajose,

Thank you for your August 15 email regarding the immigrant visa application of Ms. Mahsa Mousaei [REDACTED]

As you are aware, after the Presidential Proclamation came into full effect following the U.S. Supreme Court's decree on December 8, 2017, issuance of visas to all applicants from several designated countries, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen, Venezuela, and North Korea, is suspended unless they fall under an exception or qualify for a waiver.

According to our records, the case is undergoing administrative processing in order to qualify for a waiver under Presidential Proclamation 9645.

We realize that these extended time periods cause frustration to many individuals, and we are sensitive to the fact that the purpose of the immigrant visa program is to reunite families. Nonetheless, the U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi, like all U.S. Embassies and Consulates, must adjudicate visas in accordance with the provisions of the law, and, in some cases, this involves extensive administrative processing. While we cannot predict when the processing of the visa will be completed, please be assured that the Embassy and the U.S. Department of State will do all we can to see that the visa is adjudicated as soon as the administrative processing is completed.

This process may take several months, but once completed the applicant's case status will be updated on our website. Applicants, petitioners and/or their legal representatives may check the status of the case via our case tracker tool at: <http://www.abudhabiivo.net>.

For more information on the Presidential Proclamation please see the link below:

I have had many hardships due to the delay in processing my fiancée's visa application. The stress and anxiety of our forced separation has caused us both to suffer from depression, anxiety, and loss of interest in things I previously used to enjoy.

There are other financial hardships, too. In order to maintain my relationship with the love of my life while her visa application is in administrative processing, I have incurred approximately \$30,000 of travel expenses, meeting my fiancée in third countries, as I cannot go to Iran. This is a really big hardship financially.

I have also experienced emotional trauma from the anxiety and stress that this perpetual administrative processing has caused, as has my fiancée, who had to go to the hospital for anxiety and depression, which made me feel horribly responsible. She feels she is losing her window to safely become pregnant due to her age, and she worries that we will not be able to start a family like we had planned. It breaks my heart to see her worrying so, but the truth is I am starting to wonder if we will be able to start a family, too.

Also, I am extremely worried about my fiancée's safety and well-being as she was recently caught at a checkpoint with a small Bible in her purse. This is not allowed in Iran, and I fear that she could be arrested or otherwise persecuted by the government at any time without any concern for her legal rights. I am desperate to get her into the U.S. where she will be finally be safe.

My elderly mother lives in Canada. She is begging to see my fiancée and she thinks I am hiding something from her because my fiancée has not been able to come to the U.S. My mother does not understand what administrative processing is or why my fiancée would be subject to it. She just wants to see my bride-to-be. Now, even my relationship with my mother has been strained due to this horrible situation.

I have suffered from crippling anxiety and stress now, which have affected my health drastically including lack of appetite and sleep disturbances. I have lost weight and suffered from hair loss and inability to concentrate. I am exhausted and distraught.

I used to have a staff of four and I worked 12 hours days all week with no problem, but I have now lost my motivation and work only about six hours a day and have had to lay off two people. My remaining staff has commented that I am not the same person that I used to be.

This travel ban has ruined my life, and I believe it was purely political. Even though I am a U.S. citizen, I have been discriminated against. Had it not been for the Travel Ban, my fiancée would be in the U.S. and we would have been married by now and enjoying our lives together.

The waiver program has no integrity or accountability. How long can they keep someone "in process" without so much as an explanation or detailed status update? 10 years? 20 years? It is unconscionable to play with people's lives like this.

Part of my freedom has been denied to me because I cannot marry who I want, even though my fiancée would contribute to this country. Instead, she is condemned because of her place of birth.