



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

Fiscal Year 2022 Report to Congress



**Homeland
Security**

*U.S. Citizenship and
Immigration Services (USCIS)*



**Homeland
Security**

December 19, 2022

Foreword

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 noncitizens 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 (INA) shall not apply. Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary

The Honorable Bob Menendez
Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

The Honorable James Risch
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
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 John Katko
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland Security

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

The Honorable Rob Portman
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Inquiries relating to this report may be directed to me at (202) 447-5890.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Lugo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

Alice Lugo
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 noncitizens for whom the Secretary of Homeland Security has determined to exercise the discretionary authority provided at section 212(d)(3)(B)(i) of the INA. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) applied 603 exemptions to individual applicants during Fiscal Year 2022.



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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 in 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 FY 2022, USCIS applied 603 exemptions to individual applicants under the Secretary of Homeland Security's (Secretary) exercises of discretionary authority. All applicants considered for exemptions were subject to a thorough and rigorous security vetting process. USCIS procedures require that the biographic and biometric data of all applicants be screened against a broad array of law enforcement and intelligence community databases that contain information about individuals known to be security threats, including the terrorist watchlist. In addition to rigorous background vetting, the Secretary's discretionary authority is applied only on a case-by-case basis after careful review of all factors and after all security checks have cleared.

Of the 603 exemptions applied under the Secretary's exercise of discretionary authority:

- 34 were processed for applicants for lawful permanent resident status (Form I-485),
- 15 were processed for asylum applicants (Form I-589),
- 10 were processed for Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) applicants (Form I-881),
- 536 were processed for refugee applicants (Form I-590),
- One was processed for a beneficiary of a petition for derivative refugee or asylum status (Form I-730),
- One was processed for an applicant for Temporary Protected Status (Form I-821), and
- Six 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 603 exemptions:

- 292 were processed for an individual's provision of material support, while under duress, to an undesignated terrorist organization as defined at INA § 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) (Tier III terrorist organizations), under the Secretary's February 26, 2007 exercise of authority relating to undesignated terrorist organizations;
- 176 were processed for an individual'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 terrorist organizations), under the Secretary's April 27, 2007 exercise of authority relating to designated terrorist organizations;
- Two were processed for an individual'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 terrorist organizations;
- Six were processed for an individual's voluntary provision of medical care to members of a terrorist organization, 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 terrorist organizations;
- 45 were processed for individuals who provided certain limited material support (including certain routine commercial transactions, certain routine social transactions,

certain humanitarian assistance, or material support provided under substantial pressure that does not rise to the level of duress) to a Tier III terrorist organization, or to a member of such an organization, under the Secretary's February 5, 2014 exercise of authority;

- 25 were processed for individuals who provided insignificant material support to a Tier III terrorist organization, or to a member of such an organization, under the Secretary's February 5, 2014 exercise of authority;
- Two were provided for Afghan allies who supported U.S. interests and/or participated in the resistance movement against the Taliban, or against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, under the Secretary's June 8, 2022 exercise of authority;
- 11 were provided for certain individuals who were employed as civil servants in Afghanistan at any time from September 27, 1996 to December 22, 2001, or from August 15, 2021, or thereafter, under the Secretary's June 8, 2022 exercise of authority;
- One was processed for an individual who provided certain limited material support (including certain routine commercial transactions, certain routine social transactions, certain humanitarian assistance, or material support provided under substantial pressure that does not rise to the level of duress), or insignificant material support to a Tier I or II terrorist organization, or to a member of such an organization, under the Secretary's June 8, 2022 exercise of authority;
- 10 were processed for certain qualified individuals 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 terrorist organizations², under the Secretary's August 10, 2012 exercise of authority relating to certain Tier III terrorist organizations; and
- 33 were processed under group-based exemptions for individuals 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.

More information on the situational exemptions and group-based exemptions that have been authorized to date is available at <https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/other-resources/terrorism-related-inadmissibility-grounds-trig/terrorism-related-inadmissibility-grounds-exemptions>.

¹ Qualified individuals under the Limited General Exemption are those who were granted certain immigration benefits in the United States, other than a nonimmigrant visa, on or before August 10, 2012, and who are not in removal proceedings or subject to a final order of removal, unless the individual is the beneficiary of a Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition. 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) 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).

Exemptions by Type and Application Type

FY 2022 Exemption Type by Application Type	
Exemption	Application Type (Number of Exemptions per Application Type)
Group-based exemption – related to All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF)	I-485 (1) I-590 (2)
Group-based exemption – related to Arakan Army	I-589 (1)
Group-based exemption – related to Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion National (FMLN)	I-485 (1) I-590 (3) I-881 (9)
Group-based exemption – related to Kachin Independence Army	I-590 (1)
Group-based exemption – related to Karen National Union/Karen National Liberation Army (KNU/KNLA)	I-590 (11)
Group-based exemption – related to Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP)	I-590 (2)
Group-based exemption – related to Oromo Liberation Front (OLF)	I-589 (1)
Group-based exemption – related to Shan State Army	I-821 (1)
Limited General Exemption	I-485 (10)
Exemption for Afghan Allies	I-590 (2)
Exemption for Afghan Civil Servants	I-590 (11)
Exemption for Certain Limited or Insignificant Material Support (Tier I or II Terrorist Organization)	I-590 (1)
Exemption for Certain Limited Material Support (Tier III Terrorist Organization)	I-485 (4) I-589 (1) I-590 (40)
Exemption for Insignificant Material Support (Tier III Terrorist Organization)	I-485 (6) I-590 (18) EOIR (1)
Exemption for Material Support Under Duress to Tier I or II Terrorist Organization	I-485 (3) I-589 (3) I-590 (168) EOIR (2)
Exemption for Material Support Under Duress to Tier III Terrorist Organization	I-485 (9) I-589 (7) I-590 (273) I-730 (1) EOIR (2)
Exemption for Medical Care	I-589 (2) I-590 (3)

	I-881 (1)
Exemption for Receipt of Military Type Training Under Duress from Tier I, II, or III Terrorist Organization	I-590 (1) EOIR (1)
TOTAL EXEMPTIONS	603