

Ivan Chu  
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Lantau, Hong Kong

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**  
國際特赦組織香港分會



9 February 2017

Dear Mr. Chu,

**RE: US President Trump's Executive Order restricting entry into the US for Syrian refugees and individuals from seven countries**

Amnesty International is a global movement of people who promote and defend human rights. We have more than seven million members and supporters worldwide. One of the priority issues on which our global membership is campaigning is the rights of refugees and migrants.

We are deeply disturbed by the Executive Order signed by US President Trump on 27 January 2017 barring foreign nationals from seven countries temporarily and barring all Syrian refugees indefinitely. The ban violates international law, as it discriminates directly on the basis of nationality, and will also almost certainly have the effect of discriminating on the basis of religion.

The Executive Order affects the airline industry and we are aware that airlines have already been forced to refuse boarding to individuals on the basis of this Executive Order.

Under international human rights standards, all companies are required to respect human rights. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights make clear that this responsibility exists independently of States' human rights obligations and "over and above compliance with national laws and regulations protecting human rights" (see: Principle 11). They also clearly state that companies may be involved with adverse human rights impacts as a result of their business relationships with other parties.

All airlines that fly into the US are potentially involved in the implementation of this discriminatory Executive Order. In line with the responsibility to respect human rights, airlines and airline associations must take action now.

Specifically, we call on you to:

1. Contact your government authorities responsible for aviation and foreign affairs and urge them to raise concern about the Executive Order with the US authorities.
2. Make your concerns known to your airline association and ask them to contact US Senators Ron Johnson and Claire McCaskill, who head the US Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (contact details which you can pass to your airline association are below). Airline associations should call on these Senate leaders to rescind the Executive Order through legislation.

We also ask you to disclose the following:

1. On what basis is your company implementing the order (for example, have you received additional or specific requests in writing or verbally)?
2. How many people have been refused boarding by your airline on the basis of the US Executive Order?
3. Have you been advised of any penalties that you will face if you do not enforce the Executive Order?
4. Is your airline allowing nationals of the seven countries to board flights to the US following US court decisions in Seattle, Boston and elsewhere?

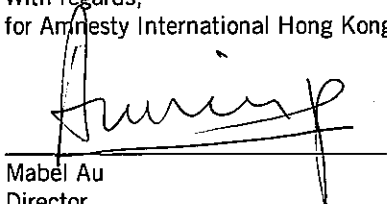
In the event that you are unable to take the above action or provide the requested information, please provide us with the reasons why this is not possible. Please note that we may publish your response.

We would be grateful if provide your response by **10:00 GMT on 10 February 2017**.

It is vital that businesses implicated by the implementation of the Executive Order do what they can to challenge this ban.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our concerns further.

With regards,  
for Amnesty International Hong Kong

  
Mabel Au  
Director

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