



 **FAIR**

FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

Immigration **REPORT**

FEBRUARY 2016

Inside. . .

ACROSS THE COUNTRY
PAGE 4

STATE DEPARTMENT REVOKED
VISAS OF 9,500 POSSIBLE
TERRORISTS, BUT DOESN'T HAVE
A "CLUE" WHERE THEY ARE
PAGE 4

TWO "RIGOROUSLY SCREENED"
REFUGEES ARRESTED ON
TERRORISM CHARGES
PAGE 5

FAIR—IN ACTION
PAGE 5

IMMIGRATION BY THE NUMBERS
IN GRAPHS AND CHARTS
PAGE 6

ADMINISTRATION TO ALLOW
MORE FOREIGN GRADUATES TO
WORK IN U.S.
PAGE 7

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Obama's Legacy: Actual Deportations Plummet in 2015

Three days before Christmas, when people are least likely to be paying attention, the Obama administration released the removal and deportation numbers for FY 2015. There's a reason why they were hoping the American people wouldn't notice. Despite repeated claims of vigorous enforcement—particularly against criminal aliens—the numbers tell a very different story.

According to the FY 2015 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforce-

ment removal report, the Obama administration removed 235,413 illegal aliens, a 26 percent decrease from the 315,943 removed in FY 2014. Total removals have plummeted throughout President Obama's second term, with ICE removing 368,644 illegal aliens in FY 2013 compared to 409,849 illegal aliens in FY 2012.

The drop-off is even more dramatic when compared to the levels of deportations and removals before President Obama came to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Immigration Enforcement Actions a Media Stunt in the Face of a Border Surge

Everything smelled fishy about the Obama administration's highly publicized "enforcement action" against Central American illegal aliens who had been issued final orders of deportation.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) instituted these actions in the wake of reports that the surge of Central Americans had reached record levels during October and November.



The stunt also gave the open borders network an opportunity to feign outrage, allowing the administration to "pause" enforcement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

A NEW LOW FOR DEPORTATIONS *continued*

office. In 2008, the year before he became president, total removals numbered 1,171,058—five times the level recorded for 2015.

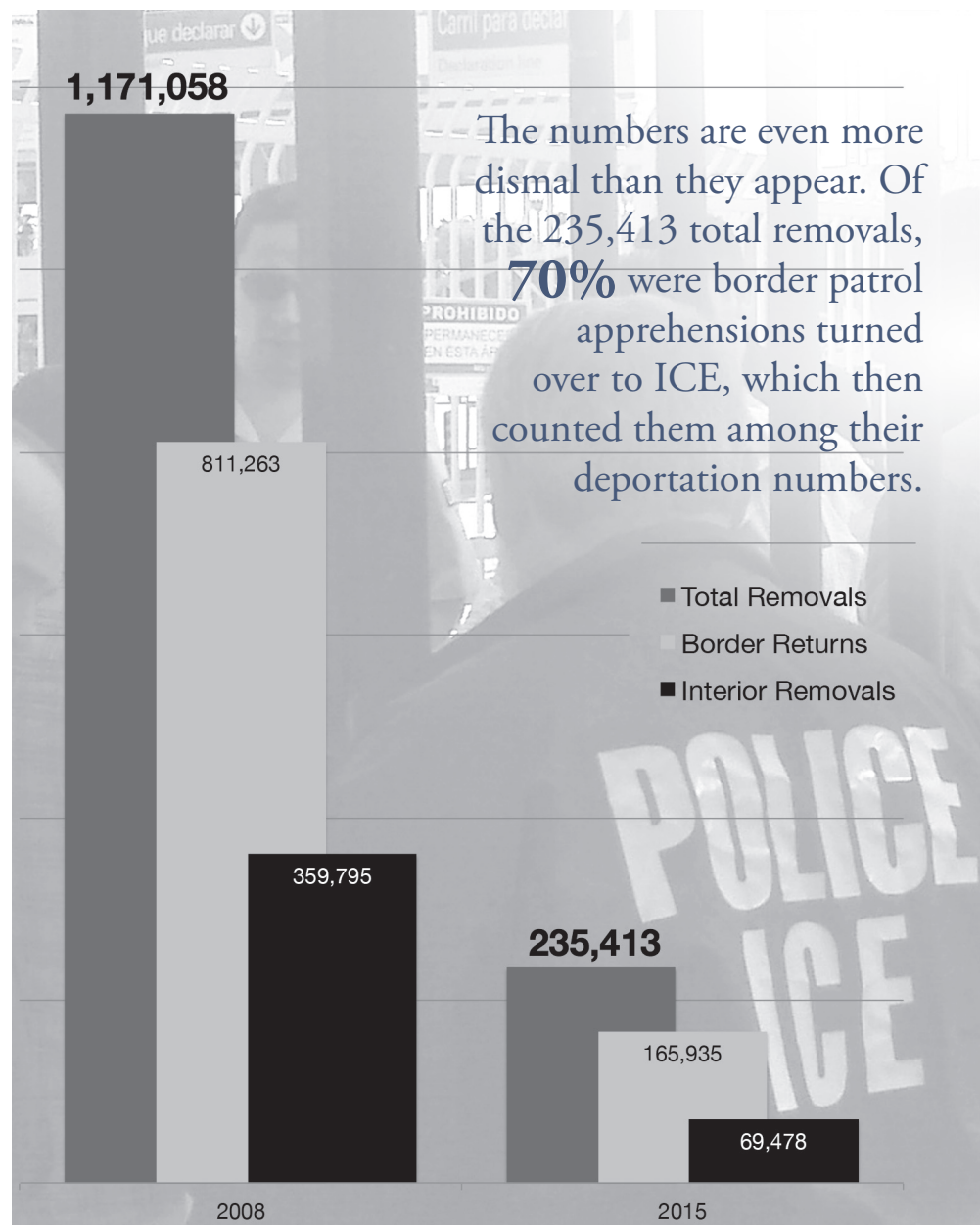
ICE also deported fewer criminal aliens despite the Obama administration's pledge to prioritize the removal of criminal aliens. In FY 2011, ICE removed about 150,000 criminal aliens. In FY 2015 they removed just 63,000. Meanwhile, some 179,000 criminal aliens with final orders of removal remain at large in the U.S.

The Obama administration has repeatedly justified narrowing the pool of illegal aliens subject to enforcement action (87 percent are essentially off-limits to enforcement) on insufficient funding. Just weeks before the 2015 deportation figures were released, an ICE official revealed under questioning before a congressional committee that ICE had transferred about \$113 million in appropriations to other agencies within the Department of Homeland Security.

The removal and deportation numbers are even more dismal than they appear. Of the 235,413 deportations only 69,478, about 30 percent, were interior removals. Seventy percent were people apprehended by the Border Patrol at or near the border and turned over to ICE in order to inflate ICE's anemic deportation numbers. Under previous administrations, border turn-arounds were not counted as deportations.

Based on an estimate of about

12 million illegal aliens currently in the U.S., what these numbers mean is that if you are an illegal alien who has successfully entered the country, your chances of removal are about 6/10ths of 1 percent. If you're an illegal alien who has successfully entered the country—and has not subsequently been convicted of a serious crime—your odds of being deported are about 6/100ths of 1 percent!



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ENFORCEMENT STUNT *continued*

News of the ICE action was leaked to *The Washington Post* on Dec. 24, just two days after the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released enforcement data showing that deportations and removals of illegal aliens, including criminal aliens, have declined dramatically. The news also coincided with revelations that the administration has tasked the Department of Defense with identifying military bases that could be used to temporarily house the flood of unaccompanied minors entering the country.

Then there was the curious timing of the leak to *The Post*. The Christmas Eve headline was likely intended to maximize the Grinch factor and evoke howls of protest from the administration's allies in Congress and the illegal alien advocacy network—which is exactly what happened. Overheated rhetoric like “inhumane,” “shocking” and “immoral” were used to describe the ICE actions.

All of this was designed to obscure one other important fact: The entire ICE action entailed executing deportation orders against 121 illegal aliens. That's 121 out of some 300,000 Central Americans who entered the country illegally since 2013. Put another way, between Christmas and the first week of the new year, ICE took action against 4/100 of 1 percent of the Central Americans who have crashed our borders over the past three years.

The stunt worked perfectly. The mainstream news media ran countless stories about the 4/100 of 1 percent and largely ignored the 299,879 unaffected illegal aliens—nearly all of whom have been released into

All of this was designed to obscure one other important fact: The entire ICE action entailed executing deportation orders against 121 illegal aliens. **That's 121 out of some 300,000** Central Americans who entered the country illegally since 2013.

the country and are likely to remain here for the indefinite future.

The stunt also gave the open borders network an opportunity to feign outrage. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) announced that as of January 12, the administration would be halting its “enforcement actions” against Central American illegal aliens. “I spoke to the secretary of homeland security at 12:30 today and he understands the concern we had. And I think we're moving forward to a resolution. I think you're going to find a pause in these deportations,” Reid said. A “pause” is more likely a complete cessation of removals of Central American illegal aliens, which is precisely the administration's objective.

The enforcement stunt was also carried out to justify yet another planned overreach of executive authority on the part of the administration. Last year, the administration announced plans to bring in large numbers of Central Americans as refugees. “[W]e recognize that we must offer alternatives to those who

are fleeing the poverty and violence in Central America,” stated DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson in a Jan. 4 press release. “We will expand access to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in the region and develop more legal alternatives to the dangerous and unlawful journey many are currently taking in the hands of human smugglers,” Johnson continued. ■

For all the manufactured commotion, the vast majority of Americans want our immigration laws enforced and oppose the wholesale transfer of Central Americans to the U.S.

As immigration continues to be a critical issue in the 2016 elections, FAIR will be pressing Congress to cut off funding for large-scale resettlement programs and to amend a 2008 law that makes it difficult to repatriate illegal aliens from non-contiguous countries.

These are actions that the Republican leadership has been reluctant to take, but which are increasingly demanded by the American public.



Across the Country

California

For years, the activist California Legislature has asserted broad public support for new benefits, services, protections and amnesty for illegal aliens. Apparently, the support is not quite as broad as they claim. A voter initiative targeted for the November 2016 ballot, known as the California Immigration Reform Act, came up short. Supporters of the measure could not convince 5 percent of the voters who participated in the last statewide election to sign a petition to put it on the ballot. Under the initiative, California would have issued residency permits to illegal aliens and made them eligible for even more public benefits. The effort failed to convince 365,880 Californians that that was a good idea.

Indiana

States may have little power to prevent illegal aliens from entering the country, but they can deter them from settling within their jurisdictions. State Senator Mike Delph took an important step toward making Indiana a less attractive destination for illegal aliens by introducing legislation that would penalize employers who hire them. Under Delph's legislation, employers who knowingly or negligently hire illegal aliens could be subjected to significant fines and, for flagrant repeat offenders, repeal of business licenses. Delph's bill indemnifies employers who use E-Verify to screen new hires, thereby encouraging the use of this highly effective tool. **FAIR experts provided technical support in drafting the bill, expert testimony in hearings, and mobilized our activists in support of this bill.**

Pennsylvania

In one of his last acts as mayor of Philadelphia, Michael Nutter ended the city's blanket policy of non-compliance with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainer requests or even informing ICE when the city was putting deportable criminals back on the streets. It was a policy Nutter himself had implemented in May 2014. So how long did this rare act of sanity last in the City of Brotherly Love? About two weeks. In one of his first acts as the new mayor of Philadelphia, Nutter's successor, Jim Kenney, reinstituted the ban on cooperation with ICE or participation in the Obama administration's toothless Priority Enforcement Program (PEP). In contrast to the administration's response to jurisdictions that try to enforce federal immigration laws—a federal lawsuit—the response to Mayor Kenney's action is to send an ICE representative to Philadelphia to plead with the new administration. The new mayor seems unmoved by the gesture, however. “[U]ntil that happens we are going back to our old situation” of total non-compliance, Kenney said.

State Department: Not “a Clue” Where to Find Potential Terrorists with Revoked Visas

Testifying before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee in December, a State Department official admitted the government does not know the whereabouts of thousands of foreigners in the U.S. who had their visas revoked over terror concerns. “You don’t have a clue do you?” Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah) asked Michele Thoren Bond, assistant secretary for the Bureau of Consular Affairs. Remarkably, Bond replied “I don’t know” even though the U.S. has revoked more than 122,000 visas since 2011, including 9,500 as a result of terror concerns.

Not knowing if 9,500 foreign nationals suspected of having ties to terrorist organizations remain in the country after having their visas revoked is a very serious matter. It took only 19 terrorists to carry out the attacks of 9/11.

The cluelessness expressed by Bond also raised questions about how effective the screening process is for issuing visas. The fact that 9,500 visas were issued to people who were subsequently determined to be possible security threats is every bit as concerning as the fact that the government does not know if they’re still here.

■

Two “Rigorously Screened” Middle Eastern Refugees Arrested on Terrorism Charges

As if the jihadists who carried out the December terror attack in San Bernardino, California, did not provide sufficient evidence that our “rigorous” screening process for admitting people to the United States has some major holes, two Middle Eastern refugees were arrested in Houston and Sacramento in early January on terrorism-related charges.

The same vetting process that failed to detect the security threats posed by Al-Jayab and Al-Hardan will be applied to the **10,000 (or more)** Syrian refugees the administration intends to settle in the U.S. this year.

Once again, the vetting process missed some glaring red flags. One of the two, 23-year-old Aws Mohammed Younis Al-Jayab, had been admitted as a refugee from Syria in 2012. Almost from the moment he arrived in this country, he began communicating over social media about his intent to return to Syria to fight for terrorist groups there.

In November 2013 Al-Jayab fulfilled his aspiration of joining the terrorist cause in Syria. According to social media postings, between November 2013 and January 2014 he fought for terrorist groups in Syria, including Ansar al-Islam. Again, he slipped through the rigorous screening process and returned to the United States on January 23, 2014.

The other man arrested, Omar Faraj Saeed Al-Hardan, 24, was born in Iraq and was admitted as a refugee in 2009. Al-Hardan is accused of aiding ISIS by offering his services and providing material support to the international terrorist group. He was granted legal permanent residence in 2011, which involves another set of background checks. He became a citizen on August 14, 2014, after yet another screening.

The same vetting process that failed to detect the security threats posed by Al-Jayab and Al-Hardan will be applied to the 10,000 or more Syrian refugees the administration intends to settle in the U.S. this year.

FAIR *in Action*

In a hurried effort to approve a budget before the close of the 2015 congressional session, Republican lawmakers balked at a showdown with the White House over provisions in the omnibus spending bill that would have barred the administration from spending funds on refugee resettlement.

The Republican leadership has long used the excuse that any such legislation is likely to be blocked in the Senate. Moreover, even if they *do* manage to get Senate Democrats to break with their party's leadership, the legislation would face a certain veto by President Obama.

While these claims are true, there has been a reluctance on the part of the Republican leadership to publicly challenge the willingness of Senate Democratic leaders and the Obama administration to risk national security in order to achieve a political goal.

In the aftermath of the attacks in San Bernardino and around the world—carried out by recently arrived refugees from Syria and other Middle Eastern nations—FAIR is working to stop the president's efforts to resettle large numbers of similar refugees in the United States.

We are promoting legislation that would cut off funding for refugee settlement until a reliable system is in place to ensure that security threats can be screened out. At present, the heads of various national security agencies involved in vetting refugees are on record saying they do not have that capability.

In dozens of radio and television appearances and in print, FAIR has repeatedly made that case to the American public and will continue to do so.

Sen. Sessions Publishes “Chart Book” Depicting the Astonishing Pace of Immigration to the U.S.

Washington is a place that operates on big numbers. Really big numbers. We know our national debt is about \$17 trillion, but it is hard for anyone to conceptualize just how big 17 trillion is.

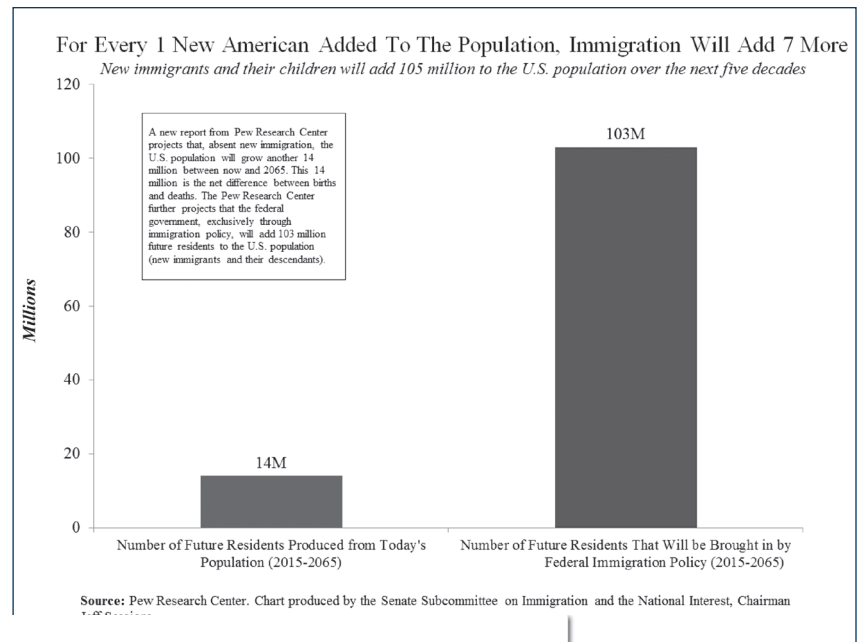
Our immigration system also operates on really big numbers—and many in Washington would like to see them grow even bigger, hoping that the American people will not understand just how large our immigration intake truly is.

Thanks to Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, the American people can now see those really large numbers depicted in a series of charts and graphs that drive home the enormity and the impact of an immigration system that is utterly divorced from any identifiable national interest.

Sen. Sessions’ CHART BOOK: Record-breaking visa issuances propelling U.S. to immigration highs never before seen, is a must-read for anyone concerned about runaway immigration. The carefully researched 29-page book takes the large abstract numbers that policymakers in Washington like to throw around and puts them in a form that everyone can understand.

Among the visuals that drive home the urgent need for real immigration reform and reductions are several that show the staggering pace of immigration to the U.S. today, and its growth in the future if steps are not taken to curb it.

The Chart Book contains numerous other graphic data and is a valuable resource for true immigration reform advocates who want to make the case to others.



U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST
 CHAIRMAN JEFF SESSIONS

CHART BOOK

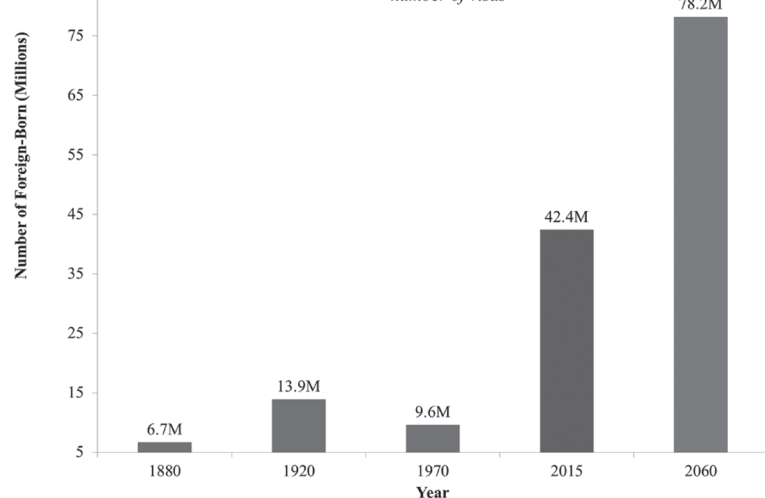
Record-breaking visa issuances propelling U.S. to immigration highs never before seen

JANUARY 2016

Senator Session's CHART BOOK takes the large abstract numbers that policymakers in Washington like to throw around and puts them in a form that everyone can understand.

Uncharted waters: Immigrant Population to Grow More Than 700 Percent From 1970 Levels

Unprecedented growth will occur unless Congress passes legislation to reduce the number of visas



Administration Issues New Rule to Grant Work Authorization to Foreign Graduates

To hear President Obama speak eloquently about the plight of American workers in his final State of the Union Address, it would be hard to imagine that just two weeks before delivering his address, his administration delivered a significant blow to the middle class workers the president claimed to champion.

In yet another executive action on immigration, President Obama bypassed Congress and issued a 181-page rule on New Year's Eve granting work permits to

part of the \$1.1 trillion omnibus package, but it was rejected by Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.).

The rule comes on the heels of efforts to expand yet another program that allows foreign graduates to work in the U.S. The administration is seeking to increase to three years the length that foreign nationals can work in the U.S. after graduation while maintaining their status as students.



foreign graduates of American universities. The impact of this rule will be particularly brutal on recent American graduates who are already having a difficult time getting a foothold in the labor market. In addition, these younger workers are often burdened with huge student debts.

The administration's proposed rule is a blatant end-run around limits on H-1B guest workers. Business lobbyists have been trying unsuccessfully to increase access to foreign workers and the proposed rule seems geared toward satisfying their demands as well as the president's goal of maximizing immigration.

In 2015, Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) introduced legislation that would have limited the president's ability to hand out work authorization documents at will. There was an attempt to include Sen. Sessions' legislation as

The administration's proposed rule—a blatant end-run around limits on H-1B guest workers—is being challenged in a lawsuit filed by FAIR's legal affiliate, the Immigration Reform Law Institute, on behalf of a coalition of American workers.

GET INVOLVED.

FAIR encourages members and activists to submit comments opposing the proposed rule to issue work authorization to foreign graduates.

Comments should be identified by DHS Docket No. USCIS-2015-0008 and emailed to, USCISFRComment@dhs.gov.

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Charity Navigator has awarded FAIR four out of a possible four stars. In earning Charity Navigator's highest rating, FAIR has demonstrated exceptional financial health, outperforming most of our peers in our efforts to manage and grow our finances in the most fiscally responsible way possible.



The Federation for American Immigration Reform works toward achieving immigration policies that are both fair and in line with the national interest. We are able to do this through the generosity of people like you who value a civil society with respect for laws and a shared sense of community.

FAIR members share a commitment to preserving America. Many of our members have life insurance as a way to protect and provide for family members into the future. Life insurance can also be used as a way to make a planned charitable gift to ensure your legacy lives on for future generations.

By making FAIR a partial or full beneficiary of your life insurance policy, you'll guarantee your support for fair immigration policies is felt long into the future.

It is simple to set up. All you have to do is list the Federation for American Immigration Reform (Taxpayer ID# 52-1136126) as a partial or full beneficiary on your life insurance policy.

Give the gift of life insurance and ensure that your children or grandchildren are safeguarded against the effects of illegal immigration and destructive immigration policies. Play a role in making sure that the America you have grown to know and love is around for your family and many generations to come to enjoy.

There are many ways you can support our mission that have little or no impact on your lifestyle. Ask us about creating a plan that leaves a legacy for the future by calling (202) 328-7004 or visiting us on the web at donation.fairus.org/plannedgiving.

