RELEASE IN PART 1.4(B),B1,B3 INA,1.4(D), B6

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~ 1749
~~DECL: 12/08/2023~~

December 9, 2013

ACTION MEMO FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: NEA – Ambassador Beth Jones
CA – Janice L. Jacobs
H – Julia Frifield
} H,B, for

SUBJECT: ~~(S/NF)~~ Further Strengthening Visa Restrictions Against Syria and Denying Visas to [redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
B3 INA

Recommendations

~~(S/NF)~~ [redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
B3 INA

Approve [signature] Disapprove _____ 12/14/13

~~(SBU)~~ [redacted]

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
B3 INA

Approve [signature] JFK Disapprove _____ 12/14/13

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~
~~Classified by: NEA Ambassador Beth Jones~~
~~E.O. 13526, Reasons: 1.4 (b) and (d)~~

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

Background

~~(S/NF)~~

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1

~~(SBU)~~ As previously specified, this policy is issued pursuant to your authority under section 212(a)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. This authority allows the refusal of visas to any alien whose entry or activities in the United States, the Secretary of State has reasonable ground to believe, would have "potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences" or "would compromise a compelling United States foreign policy interest." Actual visa denials for Syrian officials may be approved by the Under Secretary for Political Affairs pursuant to an existing delegation of your statutory authority; you must personally determine whether to deny immediate family members based on association alone.

~~(SBU)~~

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
B3 INA

~~(S/NF)~~

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
B3 INA
B6

~~(SBU)~~ Because we must treat our partners in the Syrian opposition like terrorists for immigration purposes, based on section 212(a)(3)(B) Tier III terrorism-related provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, we are

~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

compelled to reevaluate our practice of issuing visas for personal travel to the United States of senior regime associates.

1.4(B)
1.4(D)
B1
B3 INA

~~(SBU)~~ The Department would not publicize your decision and the confidentiality provisions of Section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act apply to the decision. However, visa refusals under section 212 (a)(3)(C) are required to be reported to Congress along with the "factual basis" for the determination.

Attachments:

Tab 1 – Implementation Guidelines for Visa Restrictions on Syrian Arab Republic Government Officials
Tab 2 – Syria 3(C) Visa Sanctions Policy Approved July 8, 2013
Tab 3 – Draft Report of Visa Denial
Tab 4 – Cover Letters for Submission of Report to Congress
Tab 5 – Text of Section 212(a)(3)(C)

Approved:	NEA –Beth Jones, Acting	ok
	CA – Janice L. Jacobs	ok
	H – Julia Frifield	ok
Drafted:	NEA/ELA – Matthew Eussen, ext: 7-2913, cell: [redacted]	B6
Cleared:	D – MPopal	ok
	D-MR – AMcKernan	ok
	P – CDejuana	ok
	S/P – ABick	ok
	L/FO – RVisek	ok
	CA/FO – BSprague, Acting	ok
	CA/FO – JGlazeroff	ok