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Federal judge strikes down Trump ban visa processing for 75 nations

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al Judge Jeanette Vargas said the Trump administration's decision to block visa
ssing for 75 countries was "contrary to law" and exceeded the authority of
Secretary Marco Rubio. File Photo by Bonnie Cash/UPI | [License Photo](#)

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Aug. 22 (UPI) -- A federal judge on Friday struck down the
Trump administration's ban on issuing visas to citizens of 75
countries.

The State Department in January said it would [indefinitely
pause immigrant visa processing](#) for certain nations "whose
migrants take welfare from the American people at



The list included almost 40% of countries in the world, including Brazil, Colombia, Somalia and Russia.

But in a Friday ruling, Judge Jeanette Vargas said the decision was "contrary to law" and exceeded the authority of State Secretary [Marco Rubio](#).

"In many ways, this is not a challenging case," wrote Vargas, of the Federal District Court in Manhattan, noting the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 [prohibits discrimination](#) on the basis of nationality.

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"The Policy, which categorically prohibits the issuance of immigrant visas based upon the nationality of the applicant, represents a direct abrogation of this statutory scheme," Vargas wrote.

"This decision is a tremendous victory for the rule of law," said Diana Konate, deputy executive director for policy and advocacy at African Communities Together, one of the plaintiffs in the case.



"This unlawful and racist ban caused immeasurable harm, cruelly keeping families and loved ones apart," Konate added in a [statement](#). "Today, we are elated to tell our community members: this ban is no more."

Friday's ruling is yet another setback in the Trump administration's efforts to severely curb legal and illegal immigration.

In June, the [Supreme Court struck down](#) President [Donald Trump](#)'s executive order banning birthright citizenship, a right enshrined in the Constitution's 14th Amendment.

"Citizenship then and now, was the right to have rights -- to freely participate in our political community," Chief Justice [John Roberts wrote for the majority](#). "We keep that promise today."

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Trump says Strait of Hormuz is 'an American territory'

Aug. 22 (UPI) -- President Donald Trump on Friday said he now considers the Strait of Hormuz, which is bordered by Iran and Oman, to be "an American territory."

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