

**9/11 FAMILIES FOR A SECURE AMERICA  
AUGUST 17, 2006  
TIME TO END THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM**

The arrest of two dozen British citizens of Pakistani descent, all apparently born in the UK, again illustrates why it is essential that Congress and the President finally pass legislation ending the Visa Waiver Program (VWP).

Citizens of most of the nations of the world must apply for and be granted a visa if they wish to visit the United States. However, citizens of 27 nations, mostly in Western Europe, may travel to the US without a visa. The Visa Waiver program bypasses the visa process, which is intended to minimize threats to national security by screening foreign visitors before they enter the United States. Obtaining a visa requires a written application to a U.S. consulate abroad and may include interviews and background checks by the U.S. Department of State. In contrast, visa waiver visitors fill out a form, usually while en route to the United States by airplane. Once they arrive at a port of entry, they spend about a minute with an inspector from the USCIS.

There was a time, not so long ago, that the VWP was a reasonable courtesy extended to the people of nations friendly to the United States. However, as the Moslem population of Europe has vastly expanded in numbers and radicalism, the casual ways of another era should be abandoned.

The massive weeklong riots by Moslems in France a few months ago and the thwarted plot by British Moslems of last week, all involved criminals who were born in those countries. Throughout Europe, segregated, unassimilated and fanatical populations of radical Moslems are a threat not only to the countries in which they live, but to our own people because, thanks to VWP, they are privileged to visit the US without any form of investigation or screening.

Thirty years ago, when we could be certain that a European who came to visit the U.S. was culturally as well as by birthright a true European, the VWP made sense both in terms of friendship and facilitating tourism. Today, the VWP is just another way for an alQaeda agent who happens to have been born in Europe but whose willingness to engage in mass murder is no less than Mohammed Atta's to enter our country and kill more Americans.

There is another reason to eliminate the Visa Waiver Program. The 9/11 Commission documented the fact that although Saudi Arabia was never part of the VWP, State Department officials in order to please the corrupt Saudi government included that country in what the Commission called a "virtual" VWP. That Department has promoted and rewarded the officials guilty of the crime of granting visas to the 9/11 terrorists in violation of US law. Eliminating the program entirely will send a clear message to the State Department that that no one is entitled to visit the US without at least a minimal screening process. A blanket ban on visa waivers would force the incompetent bureaucrats who infest the State Department to screen all prospective visitors to our country and thereby save American lives.

Also, because the very existence of the VWP creates a class of privileged nations, those nations not so privileged apply pressure to be added to the list. For example, Rep. Nancy Johnson (R-Ct.) has introduced legislation to make Poland a visa waiver country.

Eliminating the VWP will end the constant lobbying by nations wanting to expand the list and remove the incentive for uncaring politicians to give in to their demands.

Countries currently part of the Visa Waiver Program

Andorra	Iceland	Norway
Australia	Ireland	Portugal
Austria	Italy	San Marino
Belgium	Japan	Singapore
Brunei	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Denmark	Luxembourg	Spain
Finland	Monaco	Sweden
France	the Netherlands	Switzerland
Germany	New Zealand	United Kingdom