

Topic 2: Terrorism And The Refugee Crisis

As a result of various wars and uprisings in the past decade, we have seen an exponential jump in the amount of refugees. Some have come to Europe legally, while many have been paying smugglers to help them enter the continent illegally. These smugglers often fail and thus the refugees have been intercepted and saved by Greek and Italian coastal forces. These countries, however, cannot absorb this many refugees properly and securely. As a result, a large contingency of refugees has been able to evade these border patrol forces and enter Europe undocumented.

On November 13, 2015, France experienced coordinated terrorist attacks. Two of the suspects, who were killed in the attacks, were M al-Mahmod and Ahmad al-Mohammed, men who had legally entered Greece posing as Syrian refugees.¹ Merely a few weeks ago, Yahyah Farroukh, a Syrian refugee who was fostered by British parents who were recently honored by Queen Elizabeth II, was arrested on suspicion of involvement in the London Tube bombing.²

It appears that the precautions and background checks have been insufficient. Some countries, such as the United States, have restricted refugee acceptance significantly. In contrast, Germany, and like-minded countries, have been accepting large amounts of refugees. How can we ensure the safety of the refugees from the danger they are fleeing, while protecting the citizens of these welcoming nations ? This committee will investigate if there is a more nuanced approach that addresses the concerns of terrorism and refugees.

¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34832512>

² <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/09/18/refugees-from-iraq-syria-eyed-in-british-subway-terror-attack-investigation.html>

Should we create a quota of refugees per year for each nation? Can a nation opt out of accepting refugees? If so, what would be valid reasons?

In terms of refugee status approval, do we need to add additional requirements for background check verification? What would these requirements entail?

Once we have granted refugee status, do we need increased security on the refugees? If yes, what further levels of security can we add that would ensure we are not letting terrorists into these countries and thus jeopardizing the safety and security of these sovereign nations? What international resources can we allocate to this issue? Can we create a probation-type system where the refugees are being watched by law enforcement or have to check-in with their assigned-officers to ensure they are not committing acts of terror? Is this lawful? If so, at what point would it be considered sufficient surveillance to deem these people as non-threats?

On the other hand, should we be increasing our background and security efforts ? Or should we unequivocally accept all asylum-seekers? Is the concern of terrorist infiltration that great amongst the refugees? Or is one attack, one too many?

Again, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at Hochman.ariel@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing your creative thoughts on this important issue! Good luck!

Best,

Ariel Hochman