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New U.S. Immigration Restrictions are Setbacks for Humanity & US Revenue: Famous Children's-Book Author (Mem Fox), and Former Norwegian Prime Minister Detained for Questioning by U.S. Immigration

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U.S. has enjoyed a diverse talented workforce, and vibrant immigration history, ancestry and economy. The new immigration restrictions are a setback to humanity and U.S. revenue.

The new immigration restrictions, and the unnecessary border detention and interrogation will deter international tourism and future talented workforce, important sources of U.S. revenue.

According to data from the World Trade Organization (UNWTO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, the U.S. international tourism brought in US\$1.5 trillion of income in 2014. The new immigration restrictions will dampen international tourism.

For examples, due to the effects of new U.S. immigration restrictions, recently in February 2017, the famous and beloved children's-book author, Ms. Mem Fox, was detained for a long time by U.S. Immigration (U.S. Customs and Border Protection) (CBP) at the Los Angeles airport, for questioning. Ms. Fox is the celebrated author of children's books such as *Possum Magic*, and *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes*. *Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes* was an official gift from Australia to the British royal couple, William and Kate, to welcome their new son (Prince George). During the unfortunate CBP immigration detention, Ms. Fox was visiting America for a conference where she was scheduled to deliver a keynote speech on teaching children to read. According to interviews conducted by reputable news media with Ms. Fox, Ms. Fox says she can't imagine traveling to the U.S. again.

Similarly, in January 2017, in an effort to implement the new immigration restrictions, CBP at Washington's Dulles International Airport unnecessarily prolonged the immigration detention and interrogation of former Prime Minister of Norway, Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, because of his prior Iranian visa in his diplomatic passport. Mr. Bondevik visited Tehran to speak at an anti-extremism conference. As a former leader of a European nation, Mr. Bondevik is also the president of a major human rights organization and the owner of a diplomatic passport. Based on interviews of Mr. Bondevik by CNN, Mr. Bondevik had deep concerns regarding the new U.S. immigration restrictions.

CBP is a U.S. law enforcement agency for border management and control, combining customs, immigration, border security, and agricultural protection. With over 60,000 employees, CBP is one of the world's largest law enforcement organizations.

In 2011, immigrants made up of 12.8 percent of the U.S. population, but 15.9 percent of the workforce, according to National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Notable foreign-born professionals in just one industry alone who contributed to the U.S. economy included, but are not limited to, big names such as Terminator's and Total Recall's Arnold Schwarzenegger, former James Bond's star Pierce Brosnan, *Silence of the Lamb's* Anthony Hopkins, *Selma* Hayek, Catherine Zeta-Jones, and Rachel Weisz of the mega movie "The Mummy".

The U.S. enjoys continuous growth in GDP, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The new immigration restrictions, together with the unnecessary border detention and interrogations, are bludgeoning the applications for admissions into the U.S. by international visitors. In the near future, the U.S. may not achieve or exceed the 2014 US\$1.5 trillion of income it has derived from international tourism. These immigration restrictions are a turn-off to talented foreigners, discouraging them from applying their expertise within

the U.S. As such, these new immigration restrictions are also disadvantageous to the long-term U.S. GDP.

Given the current immigration maelstrom, please contact an immigration attorney prior to travelling to the U.S.

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This article is intended for informational purposes only, and should not be relied on as legal advice or attorney-client relationship. By **Aik Wan Kok, Lawyer USA Immigration Services, at Tiya**; Tel: 703-772-8224 & info at [tiyaimmigration dot com](mailto:tiyaimmigration.com); Direct dial from abroad: 001-703-772-8224; <https://www.tiyaimmigration.com> ; <http://tiyalaw.blogspot.com> ; <https://immigrationresource.net>

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