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# Trends. Border Security Legislation, Terrorism-Sponsoring Nations, and Evil

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One common legislative approach to "tightening" the security of national borders is to limit temporary visas for visitors from so-called terrorism-sponsoring nations. Even if common, there are several problems with this approach.

First, individuals with terrorist intent can be from anywhere. And this "anywhere" may have little or nothing to do with the intent. Second, individuals from terrorism-sponsoring nations can easily move to other countries, seek new citizenship, and, then, officially be from somewhere other than their country of origin. Third, terrorist-sponsoring nations can sponsor individuals with terrorist intent only from other nations. Fourth, nations formally labeled as "terrorist sponsoring" may be so labeled for reasons other than being "terrorist sponsoring." Fifth, a strong case can be made that formally recognized governments--with several exceptions--are getting less involved in sponsoring terrorism. Instead transnational terrorist organizations and networks with flexible and permeable boundaries and structures are becoming new virtual nations.

It is likely that the legislative quest to limit temporary visas for visitors from terrorism-sponsoring nations is more of a domestic and international political maneuver than effort towards a viable antiterrorist and counterterrorist technique. (See Border security legislation. (May 6, 2002). *Weekly Intelligence Notes*, 18(2); Mahmood, C.K. (2001). Terrorism, myth, and the power of ethnographic praxis. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 30, 520-545; Post, J. M., Ruby, K.G., & Shaw, E. (2002). The radical group in context: 2. Identification of critical elements in the analysis of risk for terrorism by radical group type. *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 25, 101-126; Pynchon, M.R., & Borum, R. (1999). Assessing threats of targeted group violence: Contributions from social psychology. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, 17, 339-355; Stanton, J.J. (2002). Terrorism in cyberspace: Terrorists will exploit and widen the gap between governing structures and the public. *American Behavioral Scientists*, 45, 1017-1032.) (Keywords: Borders, Security, Terrorism.)