

placing someone on the list is reasonable suspicion, a lower bar than the probable cause needed to arrest someone for an alleged crime. They must be affiliated with a country identified in some way with terrorism, and there has to be enough identifying information -- so if someone named Joe Smith is involved, not every Joe Smith is stopped. # -- -- -- # KIRSTJEN NIELSEN, homeland security secretary: " CBP (Customs and Border Protection) has stopped over 3,000, what we call, special-interest aliens trying to come into the country on the southern border. Those are aliens who the intel community has identified are of concern. They either have travel patterns that are identified as terrorist travel patterns, or they have known or suspected ties to terrorism. So we have 3,000 that we know about. " -- Rose Garden news conference Friday. # THE FACTS: She is overgeneralizing about the terrorist ties of this group of people. # People from many countries outside the hemisphere who seek entry into the U.S. from Mexico are known as special-interest aliens because their home countries are regarded as potential sources of terrorism. It's a broad brush. # According to 2016 Homeland Security testimony to Congress, " many citizens of these countries migrate for economic reasons or because they are fleeing persecution in their home countries. " # Yet " this group may include migrants who are affiliated with foreign terrorist organizations, intelligence agencies, and organized criminal syndicates. " # At the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors less immigration and stronger defenses against terrorist infiltration, analyst Todd Bensman said the Trump administration is losing credibility by exaggerating the threat from Mexico. # Bensman led homeland security intelligence efforts for nine years for the state