



From: Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in Washington, DC

To: All Airlines

Date: 5 March 2014

Type: Visa/Entry Clarification

Subject: Explanation of Visa Requirements for Kurdistan Region of Iraq

BACKGROUND

According to the Iraqi Ministry of Interior, entry and exit requirements for **foreign citizens** in Iraq requires all U.S. citizens to hold passports valid for at least six months after dates of travel. Visas are required for all U.S. citizens entering Baghdad, Basra, and Najaf. An Iraqi visa may be obtained through the Iraqi Embassy in Washington, D.C. Visas are available upon arrival at the port of entry only if the traveler receives prior visa approval in the form of an Entry Visa Approval Memorandum from the Ministry of Interior Residency Office. Travelers who obtain this approval must enter Iraq within 90 days of the issuance of the memorandum for a single entry visa or within 6 months of the issuance of the memorandum for a multi entry visa. Valid US passport holders with the country of birth being Iraq are exempt from the visa requirements and other stay restrictions, as clarified below.

EXEMPTIONS:

Immigration officials in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) administered by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) **allows U.S. and many other nationalities' citizens to enter Kurdistan Region of Iraq without a valid Iraqi visa**; and one is granted at the airport. However, the airport-issued visa by KRG is not valid outside of the IKR, and such travelers are not permitted to travel to the rest of Iraq with only the IKR-issued visa. This visa is valid only in the IKR for a period of 14 days. However, for the valid passport holders with either the passenger or a parent of the passenger's country of birth being Iraq are exempt from the visa requirements. Those who plan to stay for longer than 14 days require an extension to their visa; this can be obtained by visiting the local residency office.

Travelers travelling to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (IKR) via the following two entry points: Erbil International Airport (EIA) & Sulaymaniyah International Airport (ISU) do not need a visa and the passenger is **never physically given one** before departure. The traveler's visa is cleared by the Kurdistan Regional Government's Minister of Interior and the traveler is informed to travel; hence there is never a visa given to the traveler. Additionally, passport holders with the country of birth being Iraq are exempt from the 14-day stay restrictions, even if a citizen of another country.

To that extent, the following Passport holders / travelers have been cleared to visit Kurdistan Region of Iraq via the following two entry points: Erbil International Airport (EIA) or Sulaymaniyah International Airport (ISU) and is/are exempt from the 14-day stay restrictions.

1. John X. Doe, Passport No. 457xxxx

For additional questions or further inquiry, please contact feel free to contact us at:

Sincerely,

Karwan Zebari
Director - Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq
Representation in the United States

