PRESS NOTE

Subject: **Information for Umrah Pilgrims and Travel Agents**

It has been informed by the General Directorate of Passport (Jawazat) of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that the Umrah Pilgrims overstayed their visas and seeking job over there. To avoid this situation, the following action has to be taken against the defaulters.

1. In case of overstay of Umrah pilgrims, a fine of SR 50000 will be imposed by the Saudi Government.
2. The overstay will cause to imprisonment for 6 months before deportation in addition to fine of SR 50000.
3. In case of failure to deposit the fine of SR 50000, additional imprisonment will be faced.
4. The tour operators will be responsible for any missing persons while on Umrah.
5. License of the tour operators will be cancelled along with other strict penal actions if the Umrah pilgrims are not returned within the schedule period.
پیش نوت

عنوان: اطلاع عمام پرداز عرصہ مزین و ذرائع اخبار

دیکھیں کہ گزارش پرائل پس کے عرصہ مزین اور درجہ کی کی کوئی کر کے ذرائع اخبار سے ملکت عربی میں ملکت عربی میں ملکت عربی کی بھی کاراکی کی بنائی گئی۔

عمل کیلئے کی گئی:

1. زیادہ شمار دینے دو چار سال کو عرصہ مزین کی حکومت پیپا کے بیان سے ملکت عربی ورلی پرائیورز کے گئے۔
2. پیپا کے بیان سے ملکت عربی ورلی پرائیورز کے بیان سے ملکت عربی ورلی پرائیورز کے گئے۔
3. چار سال کے بیان سے ملکت عربی ورلی پرائیورز کے بیان سے ملکت عربی ورلی پرائیورز کے گئے۔
4. چار سال کے بیان سے ملکت عربی ورلی پرائیورز کے بیان سے ملکت عربی ورلی پرائیورز کے گئے۔
5. عرصہ مزین کی دو چار سال کے بیان سے ملکت عربی ورلی پرائیورز کے بیان سے ملکت عربی ورلی پرائیورز کے گئے۔

قدرت کے بانی گے۔
Fax Message

From: Parep Riyadh
To: Foreign Islamabad
Rptd to: M/O RA & IFH; Parep Jeddah
No: Pol-II/1/2/2018
Date: 5 June 2018

DGf(ME) from First Secretary (Political)
Rptd to: Additional Secretary, M/O RA & IFH; DCG, Parep Jeddah

Subject: Saudi Arabia to Impose Hefty Fine and Jail Terms for Umrah Overstayers

In an important announcement, the General Directorate of Passports (Jawazat) has said that Umrah pilgrims who stay in the Kingdom after the expiration of their entry visas will be fined SR 50,000 each and imprisoned for six months before deportation. The Directorate has called on all Umrah pilgrims to adhere to their travel schedules and leave the Kingdom before the expiration of their entry visas.

2. The Jawazat also said that those coming on Umrah visas are not allowed to travel outside Makkah, Jeddah and Madinah. It warned citizens and residents against transporting, employing, sheltering or hiding those with expired Umrah visas.

3. Separately, the General Authority for Statistics (GaStat) issued a report on Tuesday informing that 19,079,306 pilgrims performed Umrah in 2017. The statistical report quoting the registered data of the Ministry of Haj and Umrah said that 6,532,074 Umrah pilgrims came from outside Saudi Arabia. The GaStat Umrah statistics bulletin for 2017 also showed that Ramadan is considered a top season during which Umrah is performed by people from inside Saudi Arabia, as 53.6% of total pilgrims performed Umrah in the holy month of fasting.

Mission’s Recommendation

4. The imposition of SR 50,000/- fine and imprisonment term of six months for overstayers of Umrah visas is a significant development and needs to be conveyed to all concerned quarters in Pakistan. It is well known fact that some of the Pakistanis do opt for this route of entering Saudi Arabia on Umrah visas (which are free of cost) and then work illegally. Initially, there were no fines and jail terms and the violators were normally deported from the deportation centres after completion of due formalities. This, however, might not be the case now as they would face hefty fines and jail terms. Considering that the majority of the
violators are from poor backgrounds, they would not even be able to pay their fines resulting in further extension of their jail terms.

5. It is, therefore, important that the Ministry of Religious Affairs circulate this information widely in all local newspapers and channels as well as to all Umrah tour operators so that such potential risk seekers could be discouraged in Pakistan rather than facing a difficult situation in Saudi Arabia. The government may also consider imposing fines or cancelling licenses of those Umrah tour operators, whose clients violate the rules.

[Signatures]

(Omer Manzoor Malik)