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Decree number 48 of 2020, issued following consultations with the Ministry of Health and a meeting of the Ministry's Coronavirus Committee to review measures designed to protect the public from the disease:

1. Governors are given the authority to take following measures in line with public health guidelines:

A. Normalise travel between provinces and administrations;

B. Regulate travel between provinces and administrations bordering Iraqi provinces.

C. Exchange Kurdistan Region's security forces between provinces, and between the Kurdistan Region and Iraqi provinces.

2. Foreign diplomats and Coalition Forces are allowed to travel between provinces, and between the Kurdistan Region and Iraqi provinces.

3. UN agencies and international organisations can travel as follows:

A. The Joint Crisis Coordination Center (JCC) to organise travel for UN agencies and international organisations within the Kurdistan Region, and between the Kurdistan Region and Iraqi provinces;

B. Department of Foreign Relations (DFR) will organise travel for UN agencies and international organisations between the Kurdistan Region and outside Iraq.

4.

A. Border Crossings of Parviz Khan, Sarzeri, Sayran Ban, Kele, Tawela, Pishta and Shushme will remain closed to tourists, and open only for trade;

B. Border Crossings of Bashmakh and Haji Omaran will be opened for Kurdistan Region's citizens who are stranded in Iran and want to return home;

C. Kurdistan Region citizens who study in Iranian universities and institutes, or who need medical treatment in Iran, can apply for travel permit online;

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D. International Airports of Erbil and Slemani will be opened for travel in line with health and safety measures.

5. Trade exchange will continue according to previous instructions. Trade and fuel trucks can enter the Kurdistan Region from border crossings with foreign drivers provided they take a coronavirus test at their point of entry. If their destination is Iraqi provinces, they will be allowed entry, but if the driver's return to the Kurdistan Region takes more than 5 days, they will have to be tested for coronavirus again at the checkpoint between the Kurdistan Region and Iraqi provinces. They will not be allowed entry until the test result is out.

6. Trade exchanges between the Kurdistan Region and Iraqi provinces will continue in line with public health guidelines.

7. Investment projects and factories that need Iranian experts can apply for travel permit by submitting a letter of recommendation from the given factory and one from the governor's office to the Ministry of Interior's Directorate General of Diwan. If they are allowed entry, they should comply with public health guidelines and take a coronavirus test at their own expenses, and should quarantine themselves at their workplace or hotel for the duration determined by the Ministry of Health.

8. Iraqi citizens can return home via Ibrahim Khalil Border Crossing, but foreign nationals have to get permission from the Ministry of Interior. Iraqi citizens can travel to Turkey only for medical treatment, trade and study purposes. Foreign nationals can travel abroad via Ibrahim Khalil Border Crossing.

9. Funerals, wedding and other social events will remain banned.

10. If private, rent and cargo vehicles carry any passengers in addition to the driver, all should wear masks otherwise the driver will be fined 50,000 dinars for each violation.

11. Private sector institutions should obligate employees to wear masks, and comply with other health and safety guidelines. Otherwise, the owner of the company will be fined 150,000 dinars for each violation.

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12.

A. The people of the Kurdistan Region should comply with public health guidelines, wearing masks and keeping 1.5-meter distance in particular.

B. People seen outside without a mask will be fined 20,000 dinars.

13. Those returning to the Kurdistan Region should sign a pledge to self-quarantine at home or their hotel rooms, except employers, delegations or those visiting the Kurdistan Region for no more than few days. If they fail their pledge, they will be fined 1 million dinars. If they test positive for coronavirus, and are found to have infected others, they should cover their expenses too; this is in addition to legal procedures taken against them according to articles 368 and 369 of the Iraqi penal code of 111 of 1969.

14. Government institutions should comply with health guidelines previously issued by the Ministry of Health.

15. Fitness centers, swimming pools and language centers will remain closed until September 1.

16. Governors will be given the power to do the following:

A. Organise Friday prayers at mosque in line with instructions issued by Ministries of Religious Affairs and Health.

B. Reopen restaurants, cafes and resorts in line with public health guidelines, the wearing of masks in particular.

C. Declare complete or partial curfews if necessary.

D. Close down any places that violate health guidelines for no less than a week and a fine of 1 million dinars.

17. This decree will be effective from 20 August, 12 am.

Rebar Ahmed

Minister of Interior – KRG-Iraq

20/08/2020