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M.G. INTERNATIONAL
SINCE 1891



YOUR RELIABLE PARTNER FOR SHIPMENTS TO IRAQ

October 24th, 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear Clients, Partners and Friends,

We are pleased to update you on the current situation in Iraq as follows:

First of all, please be noted about upcoming holidays in Iraq:

- El-Hijra / Islamic New Year of 25th of October 2014
- Ashura on the 4th of November 2014

Therefore we would like to provide a short explanation of the Ashura period in Iraq, which begins on the 25th October and ends on the 5th November.

The Day of Ashura is the tenth day of the month Muharram of the Islamic calendar and marks a very relevant day of the Mourning of Muharram.

Day of Ashura is commemorated by Shi'a Muslims as a day of mourning for the death of Imam Husayn ibn Ali, the grandson of the Islamic prophet Muhammad at the Battle of Karbala on 10th Muharram in the year 61 of Hijri calendar or Islamic calendar.

In some major Shi'a populated regions of Islamic countries such as Iraq, Bahrain, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iran and Azerbaijan, the commemoration of Imam Husayn ibn Ali has become a national holiday and most ethnic and religious communities participate in it.

The holy shrine of Imam Husayn is located in Karbala.

In addition, Kufa and Najaf and shrines of some of the 12 Imam in Iraq are being visited during this period. Kerbala, Kufa, Najaf have become the second biggest pilgrimage area after Makkah / Madinah in Saudi Arabia.

Important Note:

From 25th October till 08th November partial or full road blocks are expected from approx. 100 km north of Baghdad region up to Basrah region.



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1. Cargo Flights to KRG

Airline	To Erbil Airport	To Baghdad Airport	To Basrah Airport
Emirates Sky Cargo	abandoned	unrestricted operation	unrestricted operation
Lufthansa / Austrian Airlines	A319 max 150 kg/pce	no service	no service
Etihad Crystal Cargo	abandoned	max 50 kg/pce	max 150 kg/pce
Royal Jordanian	abandoned	unrestricted operation	abandoned
Coyne Airways (RUS Aviaton)	1 freighter / weekly	1 freighter / weekly	on request only
Qatar Airways	3 freighter + 4 pax weekly	4 pax weekly	4 pax weekly – PAX = max 150 kg/pce
Turkish Airlines	2 freighter + pax weekly	abandoned	abandoned

The current security situation in Iraq is still unstable and different in each region. The recent developments will be described as follows:

1.) Border situation

Turkish / Iraqi border (Ibrahim Khalil border)
 Due to the last minor risings in Southeast of Turkey because of the battle between Kurdish and ISIS troops, the border staff is only operating at daylight only. This has slowed down the procedures and has forced many trucks to wait additional days at the border. The current waiting time ex Turkey towards Iraq increased to 3-4 days. The waiting time ex Iraq towards turkey increased to 9-10 days. Furthermore, we have noticed some additional security measures and more detailed truck and cargo inspection.

The a.m. reasons have caused a clear rate increase for shipments via Turkey to Iraq.

Jordan / Iraqi border (Trebil)
 The Iraqi army and allied armed groups have taken full control of few areas in province Anbar again. Nevertheless, we still do not recommend this border points at the moment as clashes are reported daily. A part of the Road from Trebil towards Baghdad is still controlled by IS. Cargo for the private sector can pass after paying road fees but for governmental cargo, there is a high risk that cargo gets confiscated / diverted. Therefore shipping goods via Trebil is still not recommended.



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Syrian / Iraqi border (Al Waleed)

We are not offering any services via this border point for the time being.

Erbil Airport

Erbil Airport is working normal and regular passenger and cargo flights are available as per above schedule.

Baghdad International Airport (BIAP)

BIAP is working normal and under control of the Army. There are regular passenger and cargo flights available.

Deliveries are possible within Baghdad city limits and to all destinations south of Baghdad. Deliveries to destinations north of Baghdad are subject to the situation.

Basrah Airport

Basrah Airport is still working normal and regular passenger flights are available. Cargo flights are possible on request only as per above schedule.

Umm Qassr / Khor Al Zubair ports

Both ports are working normal. Customs and all governmental receivers are proceeding with clearing and collecting / receiving the shipments. We still deliver goods on daily basis to various destinations and oilfields in the southern area of Iraq.

II.) Security Situation

Due to the current crisis, the security situation in the various regions changes almost daily. Therefore, the below details are subject to change and without guarantee.

KRG region

Province Dohuk:

The area is safe – no attacks registered. Deliveries and transit traffic possible without any obstacles or delays.

Province Erbil:

Current situation in Erbil still stable. Currently we recommend alternative road from Zakho to Erbil or Erbil back to Zakho in order to avoid Mosul.

Province Sulaymaniyah:

The area is still safe. Deliveries and transit traffic possible sometimes with obstacles or delays.

Central- and South Iraq

Province Al-Tamim (Kirkuk):

Deliveries coming from the North (KRG region) possible. Transit towards south is temporary possible. Since Kirkuk's security has been taken over in September by Peschmerga units after IS attack - the current security situation is still under their control.

Province Nineveh:

Mosul, the second biggest city after capital Baghdad is still under full control of IS and no shipments can be delivered or routed transit via this area.

Province Salahaddin:

Presently shipments can only be delivered or routed transit to / via northwestern part of Salahaddin. Deliveries to Tikrit are not possible as per now.



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Province Diyala:

The security situation of this area is still quite mixed. As per our information, shipments still can be delivered or routed transit to / via eastern part of Diyala. Transit traffic or deliveries to Baqubah / Jalawla are only temporary possible but very risky.

Province Anbar:

The security situation is still quite mixed. ISIS launched a major attack in October on the sub-district of Kubaisa in Western Anbar. The clashes started in early October and now the Iraqi army and allied armed groups have taken full control of the town. However, there are few areas in province Anbar which are still under IS control.

Province Baghdad:

In general, there are still daily attacks registered in Baghdad area. As per now and after intensive security checks – shipments to Baghdad or via Baghdad Airport or Umm Qassr Seaport can be delivered to this area in case no major issues happen in the future.

Provinces Babil – Karbala – Wasit – Qadisiya – Maysan – Najaf – Thi Qar – Muthanna – Basrah: Under control of Iraqi army. No attacks by ISIS registered yet. Shipments via Baghdad- / Basrah Airport or Basrah- / Umm Qassr Seaport can be delivered.

General summary about Road situation:

All routes from Trebil border towards rest of Iraq are partly blocked or risky.

There are several options of routes in Iraq, Please contact us for full details on the routes.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

M.G. International Transports GmbH

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In the following illustration below will you see the last attacks and detonations for the last three months in Iraq 2014.

