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M.G. INTERNATIONAL
SINCE 1891



YOUR RELIABLE PARTNER FOR SHIPMENTS TO IRAQ

Sep 29th, 2017 NEWSLETTER

Dear Clients, Partners and Friends,

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

1. Latest News

► Independence vote at Kurdish Regional Government and its impacts on the region

On Sep 25th people in the KRG controlled areas got the possibility to vote if KRG shall remain a part of Iraq or if KRG shall become an independent state. As per latest news approx. 93% of them have voted for independence. Local politicians at KRG have welcomed those results. But their political neighbors have asked KRG not to take further steps towards independence. Central Iraqi Government as well as Iran and Turkey have informed that economic and political sanctions might be the consequence.

- Central Iraqi Government has asked KRG to hand over the control and administration of Ibrahim Khalil and Hajj Omran border gates as well as Erbil Airport and Sulaymaniyah Airport.
- This request has been rejected by KRG.
- As a consequence Iraqi Government has arranged that flights to Erbil and

Sulaymaniyah Airport will be stopped from Sep 29th 18.00 h until further notice.

- Iran has announced that no flights from and to KRG will be operated via Iranian airspace.
- Turkey has blocked cargo movements from KRG region to Turkey and to other countries via Turkish seaports until further notice.
- KRG has sent delegations to Baghdad, Teheran and Ankara and is currently searching for a suitable and acceptable solution for the region.
- German Ministry of Foreign Affairs has set a travel warning for its citizens and advised them to keep out of risky and unstable areas.

We are monitoring the situation daily and will keep you closely updated. In case of any question please feel free to contact our team which will be ready and glad to assist.

► New regulation for shipments to Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq

The Quality Department at KRG has signed an agreement with the inspection company Intertek.

Intertek has taken over the border inspection at the Kurdish entry points of Iraq. Furthermore Intertek has been authorized to inspect shipments at the countries of export if they are listed on the commonly prepared list and shall issue a certificate of conformity for those shipments. As per now only cargo with final destination Kurdistan Regional Government is affected by this new regulation. For more detailed information please get in contact with our team. They will be glad to assist.

► Current and upcoming Roadblocks

While the current roadblocks for cargo movements due to Ashura period are expected to be lifted on Oct 5th the next roadblocks due to Zeyarah Arbaeeniyah period are expected between Oct 26th and Nov 17th. Once the official dates are available we will provide them immediately.

► Upcoming Public Holidays

Sep 30th: Ashura Day
Nov 08-11th: Arbaeeniyah Days



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2. Security Situation

Iraq

Several attacks have been registered in Baghdad area and in Nasiriya in the last days and weeks. Especially pilgrims were the aim of those attacks. They were on the way to the holy sites which are usually visited during Ashura period. The authorities have tightened the security measures and deployed the troops to strategically important areas.

3. Border situation

Turkish/Iraqi border

The security situation is currently stable. Turkish and Iraqi Army launched military maneuvers near Habur border gate in Silopi on 23 Sep which are still ongoing. Border gate for cargo movements from Turkey to Iraq is open. The waiting times are around 2-4 days and might increase the next days. Furthermore the border gate might be closed fully for a certain time period. Cargo movements from Iraq to Turkey are currently not possible because this part of the border is closed. We will keep monitoring the border situation and keep you closely updated.

► Jordanian/Iraqi border

The border gates are opened and cargo traffic is allowed again. Presently only a few companies are using this route. Jordanian government announced that they will not charge Iraqi trucks with parking fees on the Jordanian side of the border in order to promote the trade between both countries.

► Saudi Arabian-Iraqi border

Saudi Arabia and Iraq have reopened the border crossing Arar for trade after 27 years. Both countries have deployed troops to protect the border point with utmost care. As per now no obstacles are registered.

4. Airfreight

Erbil/Sulaymaniyah Airport

As per announcement of the Central Iraqi Government international flights from and to Erbil and Sulaymaniyah Airport will be stopped from Sep 29th – 18.00 h until further notice.

Baghdad/Basrah Airport

Due to Ashura period between Sep 15th and Oct 5th operations are running on a low level but

generally there are no obstacles registered.

5. Oceanfreight

Umm Qassr/Khor Al Zubair Seaport

Also here the operations are running on a low level due to Ashura period and no obstacles registered.

Mersin/Iskenderun seaport

Port operations are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

6. Overland Transport

RoRo Ferry Trieste-Mersin and Route via Balkan

Cargo movements via Trieste-Mersin RoRo Ferry are running smoothly and no obstacles are registered.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,
M.G. International Transports GmbH

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