



**GOVERNMENT OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA,  
HOME & TRIBAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.**

*Peshawar Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2012.*

**Difficulties faced by International Tourists at entry points to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.**

The international tourists travelling on Kara Koram Highway (KKH) and entering Khyber Pakhtunkhwa from various entry points are facing acute difficulties due to misuse of power by the police and other law enforcing agencies deployed at the check posts concerned. Such problems usually occur at **Harban, Thakot Check Posts** as well as **Babusar Pass and Shandur Pass**.

2. The Home Department has received such complaints frequently from foreigners visiting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and also Gilgit Baltistan recently. Police asks them for authorization and NOCs to travel on KKH in Kohistan area. It is understood that there is no such restrictions on movement of foreigners including tourists traveling in Kaghan Valley provided their travel documents are in order. Foreigners traveling on KKH should have permission from the Federal Government for travel to Gilgit Baltistan.

3. It has been reported that travelling foreigners are detained for hours without any cogent reason by police and other concerned staff at the check posts, which not only tarnishes the image of this province, but also is becoming counter productive as the foreigners / tourists' influx to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is declining day by day. Resultantly the economic impact on the public, which is already severe in nature, is further deteriorated by such actions on the part of police and law enforcing agencies (LEAs).

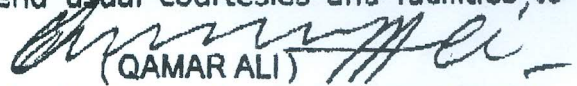
4. It may be noted that only **ten districts viz Swat, Dir Lower, Dir Upper, Shangla, Buner, Malakand and Chitral** forming **Malakand Division** as well as three southern **districts of Dikhan, Tank and Hangu** - are restricted at the moment to foreigners. No foreigners and NGO's staff member can enter there until proper **NOC** has been issued to them by this Department. Similarly **foreigners / expatriates** and **NGO's staff** travelling through **Kohat Tunnel** from either side are also supposed to get **prior NOC** and security clearance from the Home Department. Prior notice of at least 15 days is required to be given to the Home Department about visits of foreigners to the aforementioned places so that these are processed and security clearance is obtained and proper security arrangements could be made for travelling foreigners / NGO's staff members.

5. It is once again clarified that besides the aforementioned ten districts, remaining districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are open areas and all types of foreigners can move freely and no NOC is required. The police and local administration are duty bound to provide them security. (Turning them back and detaining them for long hours do not fall in the category of providing security).

6. In view of the above the Home Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has issued necessary instructions today in the afternoon to the Provincial Police Officer, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, all Commissioners and other concerned Departments. They have been requested that the police personnel deployed at check posts must be directed to provide security and facilities to our guests (both

concerned must be advised

local and foreign) and undue harassment / putting them to  
discouraged strictly. In case of travelling of Members of Diplomatic and Consular  
Missions, the officials concerned may extend usual courtesies and facilities to  
them.



(QAMAR ALI)

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