

LAW OF 10 JULY 1962

Concerning the entry and stay in Lebanon as well as the exit

The Chamber of Deputies has adopted,  
The President of the Republic promulgates the law worded as follows :

TITLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Any natural person who is not of Lebanese nationality is, within the framework of the present law, considered as alien.

Article 2

Without prejudice to international agreements and special laws, aliens are subject to the provisions of the present law in what concerns their entry and stay in Lebanon as well as their exit.

Article 3

Members of the diplomatic and consular corps are exempted from the provisions of the present law. However, honorary consuls are exempted only from the provisions governing stay, entry and exit.

Article 4

Aliens holding a visa for transit or stay, or of a residence card, may move freely throughout the Lebanese territory except for such zones as may be prohibited by the competent authorities.

Article 5

A decree taken by the Council of Ministers on the proposal of the Minister of the Interior shall fix :

- A - Transit and stay taxes.
- B - The conditions and terms governing the granting of visas or residence cards, objects of the present law.
- C - The categories and persons that the Minister of the Interior may dispense from the traveller's document requirement because of their special cases.

TITLE II - ENTRY INTO LEBANON

Article 6

An alien may not enter Lebanon except through one of the posts of the General Security, on condition however that he is provided with the regulation documents and visas, as well as a passport on which a visa for transit or stay is affixed by one of Lebanon's representatives.

abroad, or by an authority entrusted with Lebanese interests abroad, or by the General Security.

- The Lebanese national may not enter Lebanon except through one of the posts of the General Security.
- As for the non-Lebanese who are not required to hold a passport, their entry into Lebanon shall be recorded at the frontier by the General Security Services. The enforcement of this paragraph shall be governed by a ministerial order from the Minister of the Interior.
- Any alien wishing to enter Lebanon to carry on a profession or to take up a paid job is required to obtain, prior to entry, a permit from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, except for artists who shall be required to obtain a permit from the Directorate of the General Security.

#### Article 7

By virtue of a decree taken on the proposal of the Minister of the Interior, visas for entry and stay may be suppressed for nationals of certain countries wishing to stay in Lebanon for a maximum three-month period, as tourists.

### TITLE III - TRANSIT AND STAY

#### Article 8

The holder of a transit visa is authorised to enter Lebanon once and to stay for a maximum period of 15 days.

#### Article 9

In exceptional cases, the Directorate of the General Security is authorised to change a transit visa into a stay visa.

#### Article 10

Stay-in visas may be granted for one or several trips, but their validity should not exceed a maximum six-month period to be computed from the date of the visa.

#### Article 11

The Directorate of the General Security is authorised to grant several extensions of the stay-in visa up to a maximum period of one year to be computed from the date of their entry into Lebanon.

#### Article 12

One-year residence cards or permanent residence cards valid for three years and subject to renewal may be granted by the Directorate of the General Security to aliens wishing to reside in Lebanon for one year or more.

The bearer of a one-year or a permanent residence card may move into and out of Lebanon several times.

#### TITLE IV - ARTISTS' ENTRY, STAY AND WORK

##### Article 13

For the purpose of the present law, any one who performs in night clubs where alcoholic drinks are retailed, or where variety shows are given to the accompaniment of music, whether food is service or not, is considered an artist.

##### Article 14

By virtue of a decree issued on the proposal of the Minister of the Interior shall be fixed :

- A - The conditions of entry, stay and work of aliens and the taxes to which they shall be submitted.
- B - The conditions of the impresarios' work.

#### TITLE V - EXIT AND EXPULSION

##### Article 15

The Directorate of the General Security may impose on aliens an exit visa when considerations of the General Security so require.

##### Article 16

Exit from Lebanon is allowed only through one of the posts of the General Security.

A decree issued by the Council of Ministers shall establish, on the proposal of the Minister of the Interior, special regulations designed to facilitate and govern the movement of the inhabitants of villages bordering on the Lebanese-Syrian frontier within a radius fixed by the decree itself.

##### Article 17

Expulsion of an alien from Lebanon shall be carried out by virtue of a decision from the Director of the General Security when the alien's presence is considered a threat to public security. The Director of the General Security is then required to submit forthwith copy of his decision to the Minister of the Interior.

Expulsion shall be carried out, either through notification of the person concerned of the order to leave Lebanon within the time-limit set by the Director of the General Security, or by escorting the unwanted person to the frontier by a detachment of the Inland Security Forces.

##### Article 18

The Director of the General Security may, following the approval of the Public Prosecutor, put and retain under arrest the person due for expulsion throughout the period necessary for the completion of the travel formalities.

## TITLE VI - THE PASS

### Article 19

The Director of the General Security is authorised to grant aliens who may be bearing no travel documents, a pass enabling them to reach the countries to which they wish to go in the following two cases :

A - If the alien is stateless or a refugee.

B - If the alien is a national of a country which has no representative in Lebanon.

### Article 20

The pass is valid for a maximum period of three years according to what the Directorate of the General Security may appreciate.

### Article 21

The bearer of a pass is not authorised to return to Lebanon if he does not equally hold a permit for his return to Lebanon.

### Article 22

A tax shall be levied on the pass equal in amount to what is levied on a Lebanese passport.

### Article 23

It shall be possible to issue a group pass covering the father of the family, his wife and those of his children who may not have reached 15 years of age.

### Article 24

Validity of the pass shall be cancelled should the bearer of the pass move into the territory of a country in which there may be a representative of the nation of his own citizenship.

## TITLE VII - ALIENS' WORK IN LEBANON

### Article 25

Aliens who are not professional artists are forbidden to work or to carry on a profession in Lebanon if they do not bear a permit issued by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, in conformity with the laws and regulations in force.

TITLE VIII - RIGHT OF POLITICAL ASYLUM

Article 26

Any alien who may be under pursuit or under sentence from a non-Lebanese authority as a result of a political crime, or whose life or freedom are threatened, equally for political reasons, may apply for political asylum in Lebanon.

The definition of political crime as set down in articles 196 and 197 of the Penal Code shall be taken into consideration.

The provisions of articles 30 to 36 of the Penal Code regarding extradition remain applicable.

Article 27

Asylum shall be granted by virtue of an order issued by a Commission composed of :

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| - The Minister of the Interior                                       | President |
| - The Directors of Justice, Foreign Affairs and the General Security | Members   |

In the event of a tie, the chairman shall have casting power.

The decision issued by this Commission is absolute and may not be challenged, even for abuse of power.

Article 28

A special card shall be remitted by the Directorate of the General Security to the political refugee. The card shall bear all such particulars as may identify the refugee as well as the conditions to which he shall be submitted.

Article 29

The Commission may decline to grant asylum or to cancel asylum at any time or to restrict it by compelling the beneficiary to reside in a determined place, for instance.

Article 30

The person who has been granted asylum in Lebanon shall refrain from all political activity.

Article 31

In the event of expulsion of a former political refugee, such refugee may not be taken into the territory of a country where his life or his freedom are threatened.

TITLE IX - SANCTIONS <sup>(1)</sup>

Article 32

Shall be under penalty of a term of imprisonment of between one and three months, or of a fine of LL 100 to 500 and of expulsion from Lebanon :

- Any alien who shall have entered Lebanon without complying with the provisions of article 6 of the present law.
- Any alien who shall have made a false declaration designed to conceal his true identity or who may have used forged identity papers.

In all such cases, the Court shall not be authorised to grant the contravener the benefit of reprieve (from execution) nor sentence him to a term of imprisonment of under one month.

Article 33

Shall be under penalty of a term of imprisonment of between one week and three months and of a fine of LL 50 to 300, or of either penalty only :

- Any alien who shall not have left Lebanon after he has been notified that his residence permit has not been renewed.
- Any alien who shall have infringed the provisions of articles 15 and 16 of the present law.
- Any Lebanese who shall have re-entered Lebanon elsewhere than through the posts of the General Security.

Article 34

Any alien who shall have infringed the provisions of article 17 of the present law shall be under penalty of a term of imprisonment of between one and six months.

Article 35

The alien who shall have committed a second offence under one of the infringements therein designated or who shall have illegally re-entered Lebanon after his expulsion from it, shall be punishable by the hardest penalty referred to in the three preceding articles.

Article 36

Any alien who, without valid reason, shall have neglected to apply for the extension of his residence permit within the regulation time-limit shall be under penalty of a term of imprisonment of between one week and two months and of a fine of LL 10 to 100, or of either penalty only.

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(1) *The amounts of fines are periodically modified.*

Article 37

Any person who accommodates an alien, for onerous consideration, is required to inform the service of the General Security accordingly, failing which he shall be under penalty of a fine of between LL 10 and 100.

Article 38

Aliens who shall be in Lebanon upon the enforcement of the present law shall be granted a time-limit of six months so that they may settle their situation as required by regulations, and in conformity with the provisions of the ministerial order which shall be drafted by the Ministry of the Interior within five days following the publication of the present law.

Article 39

All previous provisions inconsistent with the present law are abrogated.

Article 40

The present law shall come into force the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

Zouk, 10 July 1962  
Signed : Fouad Chehab

By the President of the Republic  
The President of the Council of Ministers  
Signed : Rachid Karame

The Minister of the Interior  
Signed : Kamal Joumlatt