

SENATE OF PAKISTAN

REPORT NO. 1 OF 2020



REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTER-FAITH HARMONY

ON

**POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR FIDA MUHAMMAD REGARDING
INTERROGATION TO UMMRAH ZAIREEN AT ISLAMABAD AIRPORT.**

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR MOLANA ABDUL GHAFOOR HAIDERI

SENATE SECRETARIAT

REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS AND INTER-FAITH HARMONY ON THE SUBJECT MATTER OF POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR FIDA MUHAMMAD REGARDING INTERROGATION TO UMMRAH ZAIREEN AT ISLAMABAD AIRPORT.

1. I, Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Chairman, Standing Committee on Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony, have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on the subject matter of Point of Public Importance raised by Senator Fida Muhammad in the house on 13th January, 2020, regarding interrogation to Ummrah Zaireen at Islamabad Airport, and referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Standing Committee is given as under:-

1. Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Chairman
2. Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
3. Senator Siraj ul Haq	Member
4. Senator Professor Sajid Mir	Member
5. Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim	Member
6. Senator Islamuddin Shaikh	Member
7. Senator Brig. (R) Mr. John Kenneth Williams	Member
8. Senator Kamran Michael	Member
9. Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi	Member
10. Senator Manzoor Ahmed Kakar	Member
11. Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem	Member
12. Senator Keshoo Bai	Member
13. <u>Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-Faith Harmony</u>	<u>Ex-Officio Member</u>
14. Senator Fida Muhammad	Mover

3. The Committee considered the said matter in its meeting held on 23rd January, 2020, and 12th February, 2020 at Old PIPS Hall, Parliament Lodges, Islamabad. The meeting was attended by the following:-

Meeting held on 23-01-2020

1) Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Chairman
2) Senator Siraj-ul-Haq	Member
3) Senator Haji Momin Khan Afridi	Member
4) Senator Brig. (R) John Kenneth Williams	Member
5) Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim	Member
6) Senator Keshoo Bai	Member

Meeting held on 12-02-2020

1) Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri	Chairman
2) Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq	Member
3) Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim	Member
4) Senator Kamran Michael	Member
5) Senator Professor Sajid Mir	Member
6) Senator Brig. (R) John Kenneth Williams	Member
7) Senator Keshoo Bai	Member
8) Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem	Member
9) Senator Fida Muhammad	Mover

4. Senator Fida Muhammad briefed the Committee about the interrogation made to four Umrah Zaireen at Islamabad Airport. He said that all four Zaireen were issued Visa by Saudi Embassy, however, two of them above 40 years of age were issued boarding pass, whereas, other two being less than 40 years of age were not issued boarding pass by the airport authorities.

5. Chairman Committee asked about the policy of issuance of visa by the Saudi Government. The Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony informed the Committee that as per policy, Saudi Embassy does not endorse Umrah Visa to a person below the age of 40 years. However, such individual is entitled for Umrah Visa as a Mehram of a Lady or in case of accompanying his/her family. In the instant matter, the Ministry is not involved in either issuance of Umrah visa or boarding passes to the Umrah Zaireen, therefore, the Ministry offers no comments on the individual stopped by immigration authorities at Islamabad Airport, Islamabad.

6. The Committee after detailed deliberations, disposed off the matter with the observations that issuance of Umrah Visa is the discretion of Saudi Embassy, whereas, issuance of boarding pass is the domain of airport/immigration authorities. Ministry of Religious Affairs is not involved in any of the processes, therefore, the matter does not come under their purview.

Recommendations / Directives / Decisions of the Committee:-

1. The committee disposed off the matter with the observations that issuance of Umrah Visa is the discretion of Saudi Embassy, whereas, issuance of boarding pass is the domain of airport/immigration authorities. Ministry of Religious Affairs is not involved in any of the processes, therefore, the matter does not come under their purview.


(Syed Khurram Hussain Naqvi)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Molana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri)
Chairman