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Global Immigration alert

May 2026

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Iraq

Temporary facilitation measures for foreign nationals with expired visas or residency permits

Executive summary

On 27 April 2026, the Ministry of Interior of the Kurdistan Regional Government [announced](#) a 90-day facilitation measure for foreign nationals whose visas or residency permits have expired. Eligible individuals may regularize their legal stay or exit the Kurdistan Region by paying only 25% of the applicable overstay penalties during this period. After the 90-day facilitation window expires, full sanctions and penalties will be reinstated.

Key developments

Key changes include the following:

- Foreign nationals with an expired visa or an expired Residency Card (Ikamma), who wish to renew it or extend it, are required to pay only 25% of the applicable overstay penalties.
- Foreign nationals with an expired visa or an expired Residency Card (Ikamma), who wish to leave the country, are required to pay only 25% of the applicable penalties when the exit visa is issued.
- Exit visas are issued only by the Ministry of Interior - Directorate of Residency.
- No legal measures will be taken against foreign nationals for violations related to overstay during the facilitation period.

The new regulation entered into force on 27 April 2026 and will remain valid for 90 days only. Upon the expiry of this period, previous regulations and full penalty sanctions will be reinstated.

Impact on employers

Employers may stay updated with the latest developments and inform and support impacted employees as required.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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