

Hijrah Advice Part 3

.In shā Allah , I will try to shed light on two issues concerning which I have been receiving some queries
GETTING STOPPED IN TURKEY

.Some of you have asked what the Turkish authorities will do to you if they stop you

:First of all, there are two instances where they can stop you

At the immigration office in the Turkish airport, while verifying your passport and whatnot, and

.When you will be in Turkey, travelling down south to the border

Bear in mind that if they stop you, it doesn't mean that they will automatically deport you or detain you or

.put you through an unwanted situation. It's a toss-up. Trust in Allah

In the first instance above, depending on factors such as your appearance, your country of origin, your (international) criminal record, etc., the worst they can do to you is deport you and/or detain you. I need to

state the risks as they are, but, subhān Allah don't get paranoid or discouraged by that. I know one brother from the US who was saying that the FBI was on his back almost daily. However, he made it here

.passing through all the trials that this hijra posed, Al-Hamdulillah. Place your trust in Allah

In the second instance, after you get through airport security, you need to know that if (i) you have a valid tourist visa to be in Turkey, (ii) you don't have some kind of an international search warrant on your head,

(iii) you're not on any terrorist list or out of favour with the intelligence services of your country, and (iv) you don't have any incriminating material on your person or in your luggage , then, the Turkish authorities

cannot arrest and detain you. All they can do is stop you, request you to produce identification (your passport, most probably), ask you a few questions, probably take you to a police station and ask you

.some more questions. Beyond that, they cannot do much more, bi-idhniLah

:According to the Turkish brother, some of the questions they might ask you are

What is your purpose in Turkey?" - Just reply, "Tourism." And it's better if you know beforehand some " •

of the tourist attractions of the area you are in or which will be on your way to the border. E.g. the Blue

Mosque in Istanbul, the Tomb of Ataturk (la'natulLah 'alayh) in Ankara, the birthplace of Ibrāhīm AS in

.Urfa. Learn as much as you can about the tourist attractions found in the places on your itinerary

Are you going to Syria?" - You can either flat out lie and answer in the negative and talk some more " •

about how you want to visit the grave of Abu Ayyūb al Ansāri RA... Or you can invent a story about how you viewed a YouTube video about Syria and that moved you so much that you absolutely wanted to help

the people (and that's true, Al-Hamdulillah) and that's why you're in Turkey to see if you can do anything .to alleviate their plight. But still, don't say that you want to cross the border and enter Syria

Are you a terrorist? Are you (linked to) al-Qaeda? Do you want to go to Syria to join al-Qaeda?" - The " • Turkish authorities don't differentiate between al-Qaeda and ISIS. They still think that ISIS and al-Qaeda

are the same thing. You should categorically deny any links and push forward the tourism agenda to the maximum. However, be sure NOT to have any "incriminating" materials with you which would negate your

story. This includes knives & weapons, combat boots, camouflage clothing, etc.: basically anything which .screams out that you want to get your feet dusty

:So, in shā Allah, take your precautions

.Make sure your plane ticket is a return (two-way) ticket

Make sure you obtain a tourist visa and keep it well (it's going to be in your passport, so keep your passport securely).

Make sure you have a good knowledge of the tourist attractions in Turkey. Go to a travel agent and get yourself some brochures on Turkey or buy a traveller's handbook. This is important since if they question you, you can just brandish this in front of their noses and show them how serious of a tourist you are.

Make sure you don't have any incriminating evidence against you. (I know this is contrary to what I advised in Hijrah Advice Part 1). Bringing, e.g. a knife is RISKY. Don't neglect this if you're extremely afraid of getting caught.

.Make sure your phone and other electronic devices are "clean" from incriminating evidence.

Plan out an itinerary before you land in Turkey. I advise brothers to take the bus/coach down south. Lay low during the day and travel at night. I advise sisters not to take the bus/coach. Sisters, read the second half of this post, inshā Allah, for advice about what you should do.

And don't forget to always make du'ā to Allah subhānahu wa ta'āla that He keeps you safe from the plots of the tawāghīt of Turkey. The brothers here recommend memorising and reading this āyah constantly during your trip:

Yaseen : 9

وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ سَدًّا وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ سَدًّا فَأَغْشَيْنَاهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ

And We have put before them a barrier and behind them a barrier and covered them, so they do not} {see

SISTERS MAKING HIJRA TO AL-DAWLAH : The Trip Through Turkey

Just to be clear, I will not get into arguments with anyone about whether it is allowed for sisters to make] hijra without mahram (you can advise me privately, no problem, but don't expect an answer). This part of the post is directed at those sisters who have decided to make hijra to al-Dawlah without a mahram but who don't know what to expect after they land in Turkey. If I am making this advice available, it DOESN'T

[. mean that I am encouraging sisters to make the trip without a mahram. Allahu-al-Musta'an

I discussed this matter with a Moroccan brother here. I asked for his permission to post what he told me and Al-Hamdulillah, he accepted. So, please make du'ā for him. The brother made hijra without his family.

Afterwards, his wife and kids came over. He related to me their trip and I will try my best to give a good account of his advice here, bi-idhnilLah

?So, assuming you're a sister who's landed in an airport in Turkey, what should you do

Chances are that your ticket was booked for Ataturk International Airport in Istanbul. You should know that there are two airports in Istanbul, but the one most people go through is Ataturk (I forgot the name of the other one. Please google it

As a sister, travelling alone, and with luggage, it is not advisable for you to travel through Turkey by bus/coach because of security concerns. Doing so would involve leaving the airport, taking the metro or taxi to the coach station and finding the place where you would be buying your ticket. I wouldn't advise this. In fact I would strongly discourage it (and so did the brother). What the brother advises to do is to travel by plane through Turkey

:I will try to put into steps what you should do and what you can expect, in shā Allah

Have your acquaintance inside Dawlah provide you with the telephone numbers of the Office of Borders of Dawlah (called "Madrassat al-Hudūd") before you depart to Turkey. This is important since you don't want to be left alone stranded in Turkey if ever you lose contact with your acquaintance. You would most probably be provided with more than one number, at least two. Write them down on a piece of paper

which you should keep somewhere safe. Don't label them, though (or better, put a fake label). Also save them on your phone (not under a moniker such as "Osama bin Laden", though, okay? Promise? Good

Learn some conversational Turkish. E.g. how to ask for a taxi, how to explain that you're in a group, how to ask to buy a SIM card, etc. Turkish will be helpful even after you cross into Dawlah because there are a lot of Turkish brothers and sisters who have made hijra

...After you land in Turkey

Make sure you have a phone with you (duh... Please don't attempt to make hijra if your parents
 .(confiscated your phone
 .It's better if you have an Android smartphone which is unlocked

Buy a SIM card at the airport, but don't buy any SIM card, buy a Turkcell SIM card. Make sure you buy
 enough minutes for calls (international calls also wouldn't hurt) and enough data for internet (1 GB should
 .(be okay, in shā Allah

If you're traveling with a group of sisters, make sure that each one of you has a phone with a Turkcell SIM
 .card

.Call the numbers, let them know that you're in Turkey and that you want to make hijra to al-Dawlah
 .They will provide you with instructions. So follow the instructions they will give you
 .Let them know how many sisters are traveling and also their landing times, etc
 .If you land at different times, no need to wait for the other sisters in Istanbul airport
 (.Don't form groups and draw attention to yourselves. (There aren't many niqābis in a Turkish airport
 If you want to wait for each other, avoid meeting physically, communicate by internet after you have
 .bought your SIM cards

.Book your ticket to wherever they instructed you to

If you're traveling with a group of sisters, e.g. more than 3, the brother advises NOT to book tickets on the
 .same plane

Divide yourselves into groups of 2 (and one group of 3 if you're in odd numbers) and book tickets at
 .different times

.Do not travel as a pack on a single plane

.When you land in the airport of your destination, be chill to the airport officers. You're just tourists, etc
 Call the numbers again and let them know you've arrived where they want you to be. They will (most
 .probably) tell you to go to a hotel

.Make sure you take a taxi which is a real taxi, with a "Taxi" sign on it. Not just a private car offering a ride
 .Ask how much beforehand, in case they try to rip you off

If there's no taxi (maybe if it's late at night), call the numbers ("the numbers" mean Dawlah. Saying "the
 numbers" is just more dramatic y'know!) and ask them to send you someone trustworthy. Ask for the
 .name of the one who will pick you up and don't get into any other car except that person's

Be careful because at the airport there might be many people harassing you. It will be somewhat obvious
 what your agenda is. It's just that they cannot prove that you're making hijra to al-Dawlah. People there
 have seen hundreds like you making the leap. They will suggest to take you to the border or whatever.
 .Just refuse, ignore, don't get into arguments and don't draw attention to yourself

.Once you're at the hotel, follow the instructions you've been given

If you were told that you will have to wait for a call, then you will have to wait for a call (it's simple. Hear.
 .(And obey

.Don't be worried if you have to wait for a day or two

.Have sabr. Don't get impatient. Make dhikr and du'ā that Allah makes your hijra successful
 .Have your phone fully charged, on loud settings, handy and nearby

If ever you don't pick up the first time they call, and you notice a missed-call, then, don't worry, just call
 back. That should be your ride (a taxi driver). Don't worry if you see that he's clean-shaven and/or
 .smoking

Don't move to other locations. If you absolutely must, then let Dawlah know of your movements. FOLLOW
 .INSTRUCTIONS (how many times do I have to repeat this?) and don't get paranoid if they're running late

.Once you've established contact with al-Dawlah, they will not let you down, bi-idhniLah
 .The taxi will take you to a house

.You will have to pay around 50 USD. That's the average rate for this trip, I guess

Don't get scared if you notice that the roads are not very well asphalted or that the place seems kinda
. (drab (especially at nighttime

.The house you will be taken to would be the house of a sympathiser of Dawlah
If Allah wills, you might meet other ladies there, waiting to cross like you, in a room reserved for ladies
.only. But don't get scared if you're alone

.Food and drinks will be provided

The Moroccan brother said that the room even has a key and you can even lock yourself inside, if you
.wish to have extra privacy, etc

.They will instruct you to wait until nighttime

.Crossing the border is usually done at night or at dawn

Don't get frustrated if they tell you to get prepared to cross immediately only to tell you a few minutes
afterwards that you need to wait some more to cross. It's because they're monitoring the Turkish army
.border patrols

Before crossing, they will tell you to leave your luggage behind since you won't be able to carry such a
.heavy load

.Refer to Hijrah advice part 1 and if you must, leave your "Suitcase" behind

.Take all valuables with you, as I instructed in Hijrah advice part 1

The place where you be asked to leave your luggage is the house of Dawlah sympathisers. They are not
mujāhidīn. And, as disgusting as it might sound, they will go through your stuff and pick and choose what
they find interesting. Basically, they might steal your stuff. So, don't leave valuables behind. Pack like I
.instructed you to, in shā Allah and you will be fine. However expect them to have gone through your stuff

.I guess it's a price we all have to pay to be able to cross

.Once it's clear to cross, you will have to move fast

(Wear your most comfortable sneakers ever. You might have to do some running (most probably

If you have kids with you, don't worry, there will be brothers crossing along with you and they will help
.you, in shā Allah

The brother advises to take an extra abaya with you because you will need to crawl under barbed wire
when you will actually cross the border. If your clothes get ripped, you will always have one in hand to
cover your 'awrah. (I already advised you how to pack in Hijrah advice part 1, Maybe now you are

(.beginning to understand why

You will, most probably, cross directly into Dawlah territory. Be sure to take a breath of fresh air, 'cause
(.that's how shari'ah feels like. (LoL you will probably be out of breath and panting, but I'll allow you

."Transportation will take you to a place they call "madhāfah

.There's madhāfah for men and madhāfah for women. You will be taken to the ladies' one, in shā Allah

If you're married, and your husband crossed before you and is still undergoing training, this is where you
.will stay until he finishes training and is able to meet you

Request that your luggage be brought to you at the women's madhāfah since all luggage is normally taken
.to the men's madhāfah and then to Office of Borders in al-Raqqā, if nobody requests them

If you're not married, as the brother explained, you will be taken to al-Raqqā to a place where single
sisters stay (I don't know the name of the place). If you want to get married, you send in a request. If you
don't want to get married, I don't think anyone can force you to. But you will always have a place to stay in

.Dawlah, Al-Hamdulillah

.I ask Allah to give you a safe trip to the land of shari'ah

Please don't hold it against me if my advice was wrong, if it was harmful to you, if it got you in trouble or
caught by authorities. I am also sorry if procedures change and things events don't turn out as I described
here. I am only trying my best, and trying my best is the best I can do. Above all, don't hold it against me

.on Yawm al-Qiyāmah. Please forgive me

Don't delay hijra more than you need to. If you're inclined to delay it, remember that you might not even live long enough to see the next day. Remember death often

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