Joint Return Operation to Pakistan, 22-23 October 2008
2008/OPS/35-ES-Grant-JRO-PAK-Oct

OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Joint Return Operation (JRO) to Pakistan is organised by Spain and coordinated and co-financed by Frontex. It will take place from 22 to 23 October 2008. Its purpose is to remove, from the territory of the EU Member States and Switzerland, Pakistani nationals who are subject of expulsion orders issued by the participating countries to their country of origin.

Members detailed for duty in this operation will ensure full compliance with the Human Rights obligations ensuring respect and dignity for all persons encountered in the course of this operation.

Any incident of a sensitive or public interest nature which occurs during the course of this operation will immediately be reported, in writing, by the member concerned, for the information of Frontex (frontex.europa.eu) and Spain as a leading country.

Itinerary:

Route / schedule (local times)

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<th>Date</th>
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Carrier: 
Aircraft: 
Capacity: 
Available seats for this operation:
**Note:** The departure from (Pakistan) will be as soon as possible after the handover of returnees has been completed. In past operations this has been after arrival.

**Leading state:** Spain

**Participants:**
- France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom (with returnees)
- Belgium, Romania, Slovenia (only with observers)
- Frontex

**Numbers of returnees, escorts, observers:** see Annex1

**Handling Agents:**

Spain.

- [Name] will be responsible for the ground organisation in [Location] as well as the in-flight one. Contact numbers:

Switzerland.

- [Name] will be responsible for the ground organisation in [Location]. Contact numbers: mobile: [Number] / office: [Number]

**Frontex Agency:**

- [Name] and [Name] will assist as coordinators at the [Airport] and during the operation onboard.

**Dress code:**

The dress code for escorts on this flight will be smart casual without neck ties. Official vests with “national logo” in clear letters on the rear or front or armbands shall be worn while on duty at embarkation airports and onboard until arrival at [Airport]. They will not be worn if disembarking from aircraft in Pakistan. Full uniform is NOT permitted.

**Operational Briefing:**

Escort leaders (EL) and observers will attend an operational briefing mainly concerning the seating plan and other procedures on board in the [Airport] waiting area at [Location].

**Medical Attention:**

1. A doctor and a medical assistant will be available in a waiting area at [Airport] from [Date] 2008. Both of them will also be on the charter.
2. Participating states are requested to communicate any pre-existing medical conditions or requirements in timely fashion to the organising Member State.

**Transport of Returnees:**

**To [Airport]:**
- MS arriving by commercial flights will be picked up by the Spanish colleagues and directed to the special area. When necessary, the returnees will be provided with catering.
- MS arriving by charter flights, will either taken to the special area (e.g. France) or located by the Spanish aircraft, and embarkation will be carried out from plane to plane (e.g. UK)

**To [Airport]:**
- Concerning the MS arriving by commercial flights at the [Airport], the Swiss colleagues will pick them up at the gate and bring them by bus to the special area.
- The incoming national charters will be placed next to the joint charter flight.

**Preparation of transport for Returnees (Airport):**
1. Escorts will search each returnee thoroughly before boarding.
2. All returnees will be appropriately restrained (same if not necessary) during pre-embarkation phase.
3. Escorts will be designated to each returnee from departure to the destination.
4. Personal belongings not put in the baggage hold of the aircraft will be placed in an envelope and marked with the name of the returnee. These items actually will only be handled by the escort.
5. Baggage which is transported in the hold of the aircraft will be properly tagged so that it may be properly unloaded in Pakistan.

**Boarding:**
1. Escorts and returnees will take seats as directed by the Spanish organisers. This will be by pre-circulated seating plan.
2. Once on board members will take their seats and remain seated.
3. The toilet will not be used until after take-off. Only one returnee will be permitted to be out of their seat at any one time. Escorts are advised to jam the toilet door open and keep returnee in view at all times.

**Procedures Onboard of Aircraft:**
1. Members will remain alert at all times.
2. The escort level on this flight is according with a previous risk assessment carried out by the concerned MS.
3. No member will leave his/her designated escort unless relieved. At no time will there be less than the designated number of escorts, as risk assessed, with any returnee.
4. Any movement of a returnee from a seat will not take place without the authority of E.L. Any such authorised movements will be supervised.
5. Emergency exit rows will **not** be utilised for seating returnees.
6. A security back-up team will operate in the aircraft. This team will isolate and deal with any trouble makers along with securing exit doors.
7. Physical force will only be used as a last resort. Restraint will be used appropriate to the level of resistance offered, if any. To this end appropriate Velcro and key operated leg and hand restraints will be available. All such restraint is subject to the authority of the captain of the flight who has absolute charge of the aircraft.
   Coercive measure allowed on board are as indicated in the flight offer, offensive **weapons are prohibited**.
8. Toilets for the use of returnees will be clearly indicated.
9. On the outward flight members will be provided with the same food as returnees.

**Procedure at Destination Airport:**
1. Returnees will be presented to Pakistan Immigration Authorities at the door of the aircraft and they will not be invited to board the aircraft.
2. When the aircraft comes to a stop at stand any restraint will be removed from the returnees and they will be brought to the door of the aircraft. At this time they will be handed their personal belongings which were transported in the cabin.
3. The Spanish escort leader and the EL of each participating state will meet the Pakistani immigration officials and hand over travel documents while presenting returnees.
4. Baggage in the hold will then be unloaded.
5. Escorts will not disembark the aircraft. In the event that members are required to enter the terminal rather than wait aboard the aircraft during refuelling they will do so in groups designated by escort leaders.

**Return from Destination Country:**
- A debriefing will be organised during the return flight from Pakistan to Spain.

**After-operation phase:**
- Spain as a leading country will provide Frontex with the Final Return Operation Report in a standard form.

**All members involved in this JRO will be briefed accordingly.**

Annexes: Annex 1 - Passengers’ numbers & Embarkation Airports & Arrival Times
Annex 2 - Escort Leaders & Crisis Focal Points 24/7 & Observers
Annex 3 – Seating Plan