

**Federal Decree-Law No. (29) of 2021
Regarding Entry And Residence Of Aliens**

Shall replace:

Federal Law No. 6 of 25/07/1973 AD

We, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates,

- After perused of the Constitution,
- Federal Law No. (6) of 1973 Regarding the Entry and Residence of Aliens, and its amendments,
- Federal Law No. (8) of 1980 Regulating Labor Relations, and its amendments,
- Federal Law No. (3) of 1987 Promulgating the Penal Code, and its amendments,
- Federal Law No. (35) of 1992 Promulgating the Code of Criminal Procedure, and its amendments,
- Federal Law No. (11) of 2018 Regarding regulating the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and its amendments,
- Federal Decree-Law No. (14) of 2021 Regarding the establishment of the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security,
- Based on the approval of the Council of Ministers,

Have promulgated the following Decree-Law:

Article (1)

Definitions

In applying the provisions of this Decree-Law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each of them, unless the context otherwise requires:

State	:	The United Arab Emirates.
Authority	:	Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security.
Chairman	:	Chairman of the Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship, Customs and Ports Security.
Alien	:	Anyone who does not have the nationality of the State.
Visa	:	An official document issued in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law that enables a Alien to enter

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		the State and stay in it for the duration of the permit granted to him.
Residence permit	:	An official document issued in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law that enables a Alien to reside in the State for the period specified in the document.
Ports	:	The State's official land, air and sea ports specified for the entry and exit of the Alien, which are determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers based on the proposal of the President.

Article (2)

Scope Of Application

- 1- Provisions of this Decree-Law shall apply to the Alien wishing to enter or reside in the State, including the free zones.
- 2- The following are excluded from the application of the provisions of this Decree-Law:
 - a- Presidents of the State and their families.
 - b- Heads and members of diplomatic and consular missions accredited to the State and their families.
 - c- Those exempted under international agreements to which the State is a party, within the limits of those agreements.

Article (3)

Executing Authority

The Authority shall be solely responsible for executing the provisions of this Decree-Law.

Article (4)

Conditions For The Alien To Enter The State

- 1- The Alien's to entry into the State is required the following:
 - a- Possessing a valid and approved passport that entitles its holder to return to the country from which it was issued, or equivalent certified documents.
 - b- Obtaining a valid visa.
 - c- Entry and exit through the approved ports in the State.
 - d- Any other conditions stipulated by the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law.
- 2- Nationals of the State for which a decision is issued by the Council of Ministers upon the proposal of the President are exempted from the requirement to obtain a valid visa.

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- 3- The President or his authorized representative, in case of necessity, may make an exception from all or some of the conditions set forth in this Article, or whoever he deems to be exempted by special permission from obtaining a visa.

Article (5)

Alien's Obligations

The Alien is obligated to the following:

- 1- Entering or exiting the State from the approved ports.
- 2- To register his data when entering and leaving the State, in accordance with the procedures and controls determined in the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law.
- 3- Notify the Authority in the event of any change in his entry, residence and work data or in the event of a dispute between him and the contracting authority, in accordance with the procedures and periods determined by the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law. the authority contracting with the Alien shall bear the same obligation.
- 4- Not to engage in any activity or work except in accordance with the legislation in force in the State.
- 5- Leaving the State upon expiry or cancellation of his visa, unless he has obtained a residence permit in the State in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law and its Executive Regulations.
- 6- Leaving the State upon cancellation of the residence permit or the expiry of its period unless it is renewed, the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law shall determine the period during which the Alien must leave the State, as well as the terms and periods of its extension.
- 7- Any other obligations stipulated in this Decree-Law, or determined by the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law.

Article (6)

Obligations of Transport Drivers

Captains of vessels and airplanes, and drivers of cars, trains, and other means of transportation, upon their arrival or leaving the State, shall submit to the competent employee in the Authority the documents and data determined by the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law.

Article (7)

Alien Visas

- 1- The Authority is responsible for issuing, renewing and canceling visas in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law and its Executive Regulations.

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- 2- The Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law determines the types of visas in the State, the controls and conditions for their issuance, their duration, renewal and cancellation, and the cases that may be converted into a residence permit.
- 3- Embassies and Consular Corps representing the State abroad may issue visas in accordance with the controls determined by the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law.

Article (8)

Residence Permits For Aliens

- 1- The Authority is responsible for issuing, renewing and canceling residence permits in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law and its Executive Regulations.
- 2- The Executive Regulation of this Decree-Law determines the types of residence permits in the State, controls and conditions for their issuance, duration, renewal and cancellation.

Article (9)

Recruitment of An Alien For His Family Members

An Alien who has obtained a residence permit in the State may recruit in his family members in accordance with the controls and conditions determined in the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law.

Article (10)

Cancelling Visa Or Residence Permit In Special Cases

Without prejudice to any decisions issued by the Council of Ministers, the President, at any time, may cancel any visa or residence permit before the expiry of its duration for reasons related to the public interest or in the event of a Alien's violation of the provisions of this Decree-Law, its Executive Regulations, or the decisions issued in implementation thereof, this by the way of the exception of violating the provisions of Articles (22) and (24) of this Decree-Law.

Article (11)

Cancelling And Expiring Of Visa Or Residence

Any Alien whose visa or residence permit has been canceled or whose residence has expired with the expiration of the period of the visa or residence permit, and does not initiate renewal - in cases in which this is permissible - or if he did not leave the State within the periods determined by the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law, an administrative fine shall be imposed on him for each day in which he resides illegally in the State as of the date of the expiry of these periods, and the value of this fine shall be determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

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Article (12)

Foreign- Born

If the Alien has a newborn in the State, he shall do the following within (4) four months from the date of birth:

- 1- Obtaining documents to prove the identity of his newborn in accordance with the legislation and procedures in force in his State.
- 2- Confirmation of the residence of his newborn.

In the event of non-compliance with Clauses (1) and (2) of this Article, an administrative fine shall be imposed on him for each day as of the expiry date of the aforementioned period, and the value of this fine shall be determined by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article (13)

Exemption From Fine

The President or his authorized representative shall decide to exempt from all or part of the fine prescribed in Articles (11) and (12) of this Decree-Law.

Article (14)

Alien Documents

- 1- The Alien, during the period of his stay in the State, shall submit whenever requested to do so, the passport or the document that represent him, and answer the data he is asked about, and to submit upon request to the authority or police headquarters at the time determined for him.
- 2- The Alien, if his passport is lost or damaged, shall inform the authority about that within (24) twenty-four hours from the date of the loss or damage.

Article (15)

Aliens Deportation

- 1- The Federal Attorney General or his authorized representative and the President or whomever he delegates may order the deportation of the alien even if he has a visa or residence permit, if such deportation is required by the public interest, public security, public morals, or public health, or if he has no apparent means of living.
- 2- The Alien's deportation order may include the Alien members of his family whom he is entrusted with maintenance.
- 3- The President or whoever he authorizes to detain the Alien whose deportation order is issued, after the approval of the Federal Attorney General, and for a period not exceeding

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(30) thirty days, which can be extended for a similar period if such detention is necessary to execute the deportation order.

Article (6)

Expenses Of The Deported Alien

The President may order that the expenses of deporting the Alien and his family and deporting him from the State be from the money of this Alien if he has money or at the expense of his employer in violation of the provisions of the Decree-Law, otherwise the Authority shall bear the expenses of deportation or expulsion.

Article (17)

Liquidation Of The Interests Of The Deported Alien

If the Alien who is ordered to be deported or expelled has interests in the State that require liquidation, he shall be given a period of time to liquidate them after he submits a guarantee, and the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law shall determine the controls for this period.

Article (18)

Entry Of The Deported Alien

- 1- The Alien who has previously been deported may not return to the State without the permission of the President.
- 2- Subject to the provisions of Articles (11) and (12) of this Decree-Law, the expulsion of the Alien from the State shall be by order of the Authority if he does not have a residence permit or if the permit period has expired or been canceled, no permission may be given to re-enter the State unless he fulfills the conditions and procedures necessary for entry in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law.

Article (19)

Penalties

If the Alien arrives in the State by any means of transportation in violation of the provisions of this Decree-Law and its Executive Regulations, then the Authority may order his deportation and instruct the captain of the transportation means in which he arrived or the captain of any other means belonging to the same owner to deport that Alien from the State, and the owner of the transportation means bears the costs of deportation.

Article (20)

The imposition of penalties stipulated in this Decree- Law shall not prejudice any severer penalty stipulated in any other law.

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Article (21)

Any Alien who is arrested in the State after illegally infiltrating or entering it shall be punished with imprisonment, and the court shall order the deportation of the Alien and confiscation of the funds obtained by the Alien from any activity or work undertaken during that period.

Article (22)

- 1- The captain of any means of transportation shall be punished with temporary imprisonment if he brings in or removal or attempts to bring in or removal an Alien to the State in violation of the provisions of this Decree-Law.
- 2- There shall be punished with the same penalty mentioned in the previous clause anyone who guides, help or assists in any form of assistance an infiltrator to get into or out of the State, in all cases the court shall order the confiscation of the means of committing the crime without prejudice to the rights of bona fide third parties, and the court shall also order the deportation of the Alien.

Article (23)

There shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding (6) six months and a fine of not less than (5,000) five thousand dirhams and not more than (10,000) ten thousand dirhams, or either of these two penalties, anyone who gives a false information with the intent of evading the provisions of this Decree-Law, and the court may order the deportation of the Alien from the State.

Article (24)

- 1- Anyone who forges a visa, residence permit, or any official document on the basis of which these visas or permits are issued, with the purpose of evading the provisions of this Decree-Law, shall be punished with imprisonment for a period not exceeding (10) ten years.
- 2- Anyone who uses any of the forged documents referred to in this Article with knowledge of its forgery shall be punished with the same penalty.
- 3- In all cases, the court shall order the deportation of the Alien from the State.

Article (25)

- 1- There shall be punished with a fine of (50,000) fifty thousand dirhams anyone who employs, harbors or puts the Alien in violation of the provisions of this Decree-Law, and the penalty shall be imprisonment and a fine of (50,000) fifty thousand dirhams in case of recidivism.
- 2- Whoever recruits an Alien for the purpose of work in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law and does not employ him or leaves him to work for third parties without following the legal procedures established for that, shall be punished with the same

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penalty stipulated in Clause (1) of this Article, and in all cases the fine shall be multiplied by the number of violators.

- 3- Anyone who recruits an Alien for the purpose of work in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law shall be exempted from punishment if he reports that the Alien has left his work, in accordance with what is determined in the Executive Regulations of this Decree-Law, in this case he shall be compensated in the amount of (10,000) ten thousand dirhams as a deduction from the amount of the fine imposed in accordance with Clause (1) of this Article, and the value of the Alien's travel ticket shall be deducted from the amount of the fine.
- 4- Anyone who uses or harbors an intruder shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of no less than two months and a fine of (100,000) one hundred thousand dirhams.
- 5- The fine shall be multiplied by the number of violators who are employed or sheltered with a maximum of (5,000,000) five million dirhams.
- 6- Without prejudice to the penalties mentioned in the previous clauses, if it is proven that a farm or manor or part of any of them has been allocated to house violating or intrusive workers, the court shall order the demolition or removal of that part of the building.
- 7- In all cases, the court shall order the deportation of the violating alien, as well as it shall also order the deportation of the alien who has employed him or harbored him upon recidivism.
- 8- The owner of the farm or manor shall be exempted from the prescribed penalty if it is proven that he was not aware of the incident subject matter of the crime.
- 9- The crimes stipulated in this Article are excluded from the application of the provisions of extenuating circumstances stipulated in the Penal Code.
- 10- In respect the purposes of this Article, a farm means every land designated for the cultivation and planting of plant varieties, and a manor is meant every place designated for raising some kinds of animals.

Article (26)

Violation of the conditions and controls of residence permits referred to in Article (8) of this Decree-Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding (3) three months and a fine not exceeding (10,000) ten thousand dirhams, or either of these two penalties, then the court shall order the deportation of the violator from the State.

Article (27)

Whoever exploits, assists, participates or facilitates in any way, a visa in a manner inconsistent with the purpose for which it was granted, in violation of the provisions of this Decree-Law and its Executive Regulations, shall be punished by imprisonment or a fine of not less than (10,000) ten thousand dirhams, and the penalty shall multiply according to the number of violators, and the court shall order the deportation of the Alien.

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Article (28)

Any legal person whose representatives, directors, agents or employees have contributed to the commission of any of the crimes stipulated in this Decree-Law shall be punished with a fine of no less than (50,000) fifty thousand dirhams. The court may order the closure of the place in which he carries out his activity for a period not exceeding (6) six months, and the fine shall be multiplied by the number of violations.

Article (29)

Whoever fails to pay the fine referred to in Articles (11) and (12) of the Decree-Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding (3) three months or a fine not exceeding (4,000) four thousand dirhams, and the court may order his deportation.

Article (30)

By the way of exception of the penalties prescribed for the crimes stipulated in this Decree-Law, anyone who violates the provisions of this Decree-Law, its Executive Regulations, or the decisions issued for its implementation shall be punished by imprisonment for a period of no less than one month and a fine of no less than (10,000) ten thousand dirhams, or one of the these two penalties, and the fine shall be multiplied by the number of violators.

In all cases, the provisions of recidivism shall apply in the event of re-committing the offense or crime within one year from the date of the completion of the sentence imposed.

Article (31)

Anyone who attempts to commit a crime punishable by virtue of this Decree-Law or participates in it by conspiring, assisting, inciting or tempting third parties to commit it shall be punished with the penalty prescribed for the perpetrator himself.

Article (32)

In applying the penalties stipulated in the previous Articles, the provisions of the Articles relating to suspension of execution, replacement of penalty, and judicial pardon, contained in the Penal Code, shall not apply.

Article (33)

The Federal Supreme Court shall adjudicate on the crimes referred to in Articles (22) and (24) of this Decree-Law, and the other courts - each according to its jurisdiction - shall adjudicate on other crimes.

Article (34)

Administrative Violations And Sanctions

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Without prejudice to the penalties stipulated in this Decree-Law, the Council of Ministers shall issue a decision specifying the acts that constitute a violation of the provisions of this Decree-Law, its Executive Regulations, the decisions issued for its implementation, and the administrative penalties to be imposed.

Article (35)

Adjustment Of Violators' Status

The Council of Ministers may - upon the proposal of the President - adjustment the status of violators of the provisions of this Decree-Law, its Executive Regulations and the decisions issued in implementation thereof, and organize exemption cases, as well as impose financial fines on administrative violations.

Article (36)

Executive Regulations

The Council of Ministers shall issue, upon the proposal of the President, the Executive Regulations for this Decree-Law.

Article (37)

Cancellations

- 1- The aforementioned Federal Law No. (6) of 1973 shall be repealed, as shall any provision that contradicts or contravenes the provisions of this Law by Decree.
- 2- The decisions, regulations, and rules in force before the provisions of this Decree-Law come into force, and in a manner that does not conflict with its provisions, shall continue until the issuance of their replacement in accordance with the provisions of this Decree-Law.

Article (38)

Publication And Application of Decree-Law

This Decree-Law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force after (30) thirty days from the date of its publication.

Issued by us at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi:

On: 16/September/2021AD

Corresponding to: 9/Safar/1443 AH

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Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates

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