



Fatwa no. 8406

Q: I had some laborers working on a farm employed under my sponsorship and one of them used to work with one of my relatives. After a while, they ran away from work leaving behind some of their wages. I hope that you will tell me what I am obligated to do about the rest of their wages. Should I give it away as Sadaqah (voluntary charity) on their behalf, despite the fact that when they left the work was disrupted for a period of time and that I have sent their passports to the relevant bodies. Please advise me as to what I should do.

A: If the reality is as you mentioned, you should exert efforts to find them through the addresses that you got when you contracted them, and you should pay them their due rights. If you are unable to do this you should give out the money owed to each person as Sadaqah if they are Muslims, intending the reward for them. If they are non-Muslims, you should give the money in charity to free yourself of any obligation. If they come back after that, tell them what you did. If they do not accept it, you have to give them their due rights, and you will get the reward of the Sadaqah.

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May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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