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Fatwa No. (16681)

Q: I obtained 12 visas to bring in workers from Pakistan. I submitted them to the bureau in charge in that country. This business bureau provided me with a place to live, expenses, and a car all for free in order to gain me as a future customer. They chose for me the workers I requested - numbering 12 workers - and paid me 12,000 Saudi riyals. I took them to Saudi Arabia but I feel doubtful regarding whether the money I received is lawful. I thought that most likely the owner of the business bureau took the money from workers and gave it to me to gain me as a future customer. I talked about it with workers; however, only two workers absolved me from responsibility. I could not talk to the other ten, for some of them traveled to addresses I do not know while others died while still under my sponsorship. I would like this case to be submitted to His Honor Shaykh `Abdul-`Aziz ibn `Abdullah ibn Baz for his fatwa on it and to guide me as to how to dispose of the remainder, i.e. 10,000, in case it is ill-gotten money. Finally, may Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

A: You must repay the above-mentioned amount of money to workers or, if the this is unfeasible, give it in charity on their behalf. In fact, such money was taken from them unlawfully.

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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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