



Fatwa no. 20136:

Q: I have a shop in which I sell and repair watches. Some people gave me their watches to repair, but they did not show up to take their watches. I have repaired the watches, and they have been in the shop for five years or more. I announced these watches three separate times, but nobody came to take them. I am annoyed by the existence of these watches for many reasons, including:

first, the cost of the spare parts and repairing them;

second, the fear of losing them, as they are many;

third, the desire to sell the shop and change my career. Please, Your Eminence, tell me the right way to deal with these watches.

A: If the situation is as you have mentioned, you can sell the watches left by their owners

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and give their price as a Sadaqah (voluntary charity) to the poor or to charitable projects, with the intention of giving the reward to the owners. You will be rewarded for this in sha'a Allah (if Allah wills). If any of them shows up and demands their watch, tell them what happened. If they accept it, it will be fine; otherwise, you should pay them its value and you will be rewarded for the Sadaqah. If they had not paid the repair costs, you can take it from the watches' price, and give the rest as a Sadaqah. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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