

provides its goods and services to all sectors of society, how can a unified legal framework be established to guarantee the rights of all citizens according to their own doctrines and beliefs? For the sake of social justice, shouldn't this be one of their considerations?!

With the expansion of the industry and the emergence of younger and less experienced scholars, we must also wonder whether there are any criteria for determining the qualifications of the members of these committees, or if there were a governmental body which oversees and authorizes their Fatwa. Are we going to witness the Fatwa becoming a profession one day as is the case with the Ma'adun, the Imam, or the Muezzin? With the proliferation of these committees, it is necessary to establish governmental oversight and professional standards for those who wish to work in the field of Fatwa in order to protect these committees from being monopolized by certain figures. With the increasing number of institutions and bodies that are framed by the Islamic system, I believe that all Shari'ah committees should be subject under the supervision of the Iftaa Administration in the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs. Standard regulations and qualifications should be established for those wishing to work in this field, and members should be appointed through the Ministry at the request of the concerned institution. This administrative management will grant independence to committee members. I also call on each Shari'a Committee to include some members who are experts in the field of work of its institution to ensure the Fatwa is practical to the issue in question, thereby giving further legitimacy to its rulings. Moreover, the Committee should be careful to listen to the other parties involved with the question to ensure all the matter's circumstances are investigated, and not only from the perspective of the committee's institution. As I previously said, we hold the utmost respect and appreciation for the members of the Fatwa Committees, and this article is only a sincere call to protect the Iftaa from the shadow of industry, and return it to the cloak of Shari'ah and true justice.