

case, the Authority will have paid the zakat higher than the ordained amount. A clear and transparent calculation of zakat is lost!

What is far worse, however, is the allocation of funds for zakat and then delaying its payment until future years. According to the report of the State Audit Bureau, the accumulated unpaid zakat has reached 2 million dinars. Why does the Authority insist on holding this? Wasn't there a previous interrogation centered on this very same subject? How can it invest the money of zakat?! To put things in perspective, in my hand is an expert report on one of the old cases which was raised on this very same matter. In this report, the Authority claims that it held the money of zakat because it did not find a needy person. What a shame! The Authority did not find someone worthy of charity! What about the 15 thousand minors under the Authority's care? Are all of them rich? If this is the case, did all the poor vanish from Kuwait? Has the whole Islamic-Arabian world been emptied of the poor? Perhaps the Authority thinks it is still the era of the Caliph Omar bin Abdul Aziz! (An era in which the Islamic world flourished. Caliph Omar is quoted as saying, "Spread wheat on the tops of the mountains so it cannot be said that even a bird went hungry in the land of the Muslims.") An even more bizarre question to consider is where is Bayt Zakat in all of this? (Bayt Zakat, or House of Alms, is an independent government authority to which one may choose to give their zakat for distribution to the poor. The charitable work of Bayt Zakat is featured in later articles.) Why is this surplus not being transferred to it? Is not the director of PAMA by virtue of his position a member of the board of Bayt Zakat? Is there no clear message from the legislature that this zakat must be transferred to Bayt Zakat?

What a pity that even the righteous deed of zakat didn't escape being withheld from the orphans.