

motorcycle which could protect him from the weather, but also increase his ability to travel farther and make more sales?

I've known one of these men, Bu Hasan, for over twenty years. I see him pray with us at the mosque, leaving his bicycle outside in the protection of God, and I meet him at a different mosque in Friday prayers. We became "mosque mates," exchanging greetings all the time, except during the holy month of Ramadan when he travels home to see his twelve children. Through all his struggles, he was an intellectual at heart. I was surprised to learn that he regularly read and commented on my articles in *Al Qabas*. Then one day, for the first time, he called me to ask for a small sum of money. He was short in sales and he couldn't afford the fees to renew his residency. Then I knew the painful truth about their situation, their residency fees are paid by the unfortunate workers themselves.

I have to say to all employers who think to violate the law, before doing this, remember that you are violating Sharia law and all the laws of mercy. Shame on you! Enough of this greedy trading with the livelihoods of poor human beings. I am afraid that one day God would punish us for such crimes and deprive us of our homeland which He, the Lord Almighty, has protected in His mercy. If we lose kindness from our hearts, we may find ourselves in the shoes of Bu Hasan or even worse, God forbid!