



Fatwa no. 6469

Q: A savings and finance company was established in the late forties of last century. We were a few persons and agreed that each of us would pay one piaster for each share. Two of us were assigned to use the capital of these shares for sales and purchases.

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The company began to grow and grow and had a structure and a board of directors. Many dealers participated and divided the company into shares where the value of one share equals one hundred Riyals. After the liquidation of the company, the share value is more than 6000 Riyals. The company has pieces of land which are submitted to the legal courts for judgment, and if they are proved to be owned by the company, extra value will be added to the value of shares. When I asked about the source of this profit, I knew that the company has shares in the bank of Riyadh and from the value of land which I bought, but most profits come from the bank. No simple shareholder like me can have knowledge about this. Is it permissible to take the mentioned sum or a part of it?

A: If the case is truly as you mentioned, then receive the initial capital and all its profits and you will take the capital and the profits with the exception of the usurious interest. You can give this interest for the interests to the poor and not benefit personally from it. You can know the percentage of profit gained through usury from the company's total profits. If it is not easy to know, ask an expert to estimate it for you.

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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