



The first question of Fatwa no. 2885

Q 1: Two years ago I met some people who had taken pieces of land. They told me that no one owns the land. I then took a piece of land and divided it into several parts. I told other people that no one owns the land and they too took possession of some pieces of land. A few days later people started to buy and sell their land. Then, I sold all the pieces of lands that I had taken. I concluded a contract with the purchaser in which I specified the area of the land, the price and made a promise to support him against anyone who may claim ownership of the land except for the state; and anyone who has a document that proves his ownership of the land. People agreed to purchase the land accordingly. Later, the municipality destroyed all the buildings and boxes placed on the land and evacuated the inhabitants. I heard from some people that the land is owned by the municipality. I do not know the people to whom I have sold the land. None of them came to me to take their money back. I hope you will tell me the ruling on the money I have taken from them, which is about SR 6,000. Is this money lawful for me or not? What should I do with it?

A: Your sale of this land is not permissible and it is not a valid sale,

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because you were not the owner of the land. You were not entitled to sell the land or give consent from its owner after you sold it. Hence, you have to repay the money, whether little or much, that you have taken from the purchasers.

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

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