Fatwa no. 2552

Q: Problems arise between the tribes, especially relatives and kin. Most of them are serious crimes which we mediate to resolve these problems and reconcile the different parties under official laws.

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As you know the virtues of reconciliation...etc. this reconciliation results in the invitation of one party to the other to a lunch or a dinner at the expense of the guilty and his honorable supporters. Thereafter, peace prevails which prevents the means to trials and trouble...etc. Your Honor, is this meal prohibited or not?

A: If the case is as mentioned, and it is offered as a good gesture, there is nothing wrong with this whether it is brought by the guilty, the victim, or a third party. Whereas if it is offered as a penalty, this is to be considered Ta`zir (discretionary punishment) through paying money (the costs of the banquet), and this requires the stipulation of a legal ruler, but there is no harm in it as long as the person offers willingly. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions

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