



Fatwa no. 19020

**Q: I am an embassy employee and sometimes colleagues and relatives want me to get visas to get suitable house servants for them. They want a trustworthy person to choose the servant for them, who will take care of the matter and also to reduce the cost from around 4 -5,000**

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Riyals to 1,550, and this is the source of the problem for me. As far as I know and from what I hear from the recruitment offices that everybody deals with, and who are indispensable in finding a suitable servant, they use the 1,500 Riyals for two purposes, firstly, to buy a ticket for the servant, and secondly, to give money to airport employees to facilitate the servant's travel, because the Indian government forbids female servants from traveling abroad. We have not seen them giving this money to the employees at the airport; it is just claimed by the recruitment officers and we do not know whether this is true. The remaining money is considered as the fee for the recruitment office owner, which they take in addition to the money from the house servants before they leave. This is what normally happens, and there is no alternative as far as I know, at least at the present time. Is it permissible for me to do this work, bearing in mind that I do not take a fee in return? Could I take a fee if this is Halal (lawful) and permissible?

**A:** If the situation is as you mentioned, that you deal with recruitment offices that give airport employees in India money to facilitate house servants' travel outside the country, which the Indian government forbids, or you pay the airport employees this money to facilitate your request, this is considered as a bribe and cooperation in sin. Allah (may He be Exalted) says:

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﴿ Help you one another in Al-Birr and At-Taqwâ (virtue, righteousness and piety); but do not help one another in sin and transgression. ﴾ It was also reported from 'Amr ibn Abu Salamah, on the authority of his father, on the authority of Abu Hurayrah, who said, ﴿ The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) cursed the briber and the bribed in making judgment. ﴾ (Related by Al-Tirmidhy in "Al-Jami' Al-Sahih", Abu Dawud in "Al-Sunan", Imam Ahmad in "Al-Musnad", and Ibn Majah in "Al-Sunan") Accordingly, it is not Halal (lawful) for you to do this work or take money in return for it. We advise you to stop doing this and make sincere Tawbah (repentance to Allah) for this. If anyone leaves something for the Sake of Allah, He will compensate them with something better. Allah says: ﴿ And whosoever fears Allâh and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty). ﴾ And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine. ﴾ If you do not pay the recruitment office owners or the airport employees money to facilitate your request, and this does not entail deception of the systems that have been

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agreed upon between the two countries regarding the method of bringing workers into the country, there is no harm in doing this work and taking money in return for it, provided that the person who has authorized you knows this, that the workers brought are Muslims, and the women have a Mahram (spouse or unmarriageable relative) with them, so your conscience will be clear. May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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