



### Giving Zakat-ul-Fitr to charitable societies

**Fatwa no. 13231**

**All praise be to Allah Alone, and peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of Allah, his family and Companions. To proceed:**

**The Permanent Committee for Scholarly Research and Ifta' has examined**

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**the Fatwa request submitted to His Eminence the Chairman by the Chairman of the Board of Al-Bir Society in Jeddah stating:**

**Al-Bir Society in Jeddah, registered at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs under no. 62 dated 6/3/1404 A.H., practices some social services; the most important thereof are the following:**

**1-**

**Maintaining orphans, children of unknown parents and children of special circumstances as those whose mothers are jailed or suffering from a mental illness or a chronic disease. Maintenance includes both genders, males and females, and is a complete educational integrated lodging.**

**2-**

**Maintaining needy families through presenting cash and study aids after a thorough investigation performed by experienced or qualified male and female researchers on scientific objective basis. This is followed by continuous observation from time to time to monitor and take care of positive or negative changes that may happen to beneficiary families.**

**The society currently cares for around 200 children and more than 600 families. It also offers school aids to about 1000 male and female students. Moreover, in case the resources of the society improve, it is expected (Allah willing) that its new orphanage maintains 500 children and the families receiving assistance increase. The same also applies to school aids. The society gets its resources from payments of Zakah (obligatory charity), endowments, donations and wills in addition to member subscriptions.**

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**The society considered collecting Zakat-ul-Fitr (obligatory charity paid before the Festival of Breaking the Fast) whether its payments is directly foodstuff or turned into foodstuff by the society on behalf of those who pay it in cash - after the pattern of the meats given as Ud-hiyah (sacrificial animal offered by non-pilgrims), Hady (sacrificial animal offered by pilgrims) and Fidyah (ransom) - before the Prayer of 'Eid-ul-Fitr (the Festival of Breaking the Fast). Is it permissible for the society to distribute such foodstuff eventually in accordance with the need of its maintained beneficiaries? We wish that**

**your Eminence will issue your Fatwa in this regard so that we may proceed in this charitable enterprise.**

**The Committee replied as follows:**

The society must distribute Zakat-ul-Fitr to its deserving recipients before the 'Eid Prayer. It is impermissible to delay paying it after such a time limit as the Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered it to be given to the poor before the 'Eid Prayer. In fact, the society is regarded as the agent acting on behalf of the Zakah payer. Thus, the society may receive only an amount of Zakat-ul-Fitr that it will be able to distribute to the poor before the 'Eid Prayer. Moreover, it is impermissible to pay Zakat-ul-Fitr in cash as the Shar'y (Islamic legal) evidence indicated that it is obligatory to be paid as foodstuff. The Shar'y evidence should not be abandoned for the opinion of some person. As to the case in which the Zakah payers give money to the society to buy foodstuff for the poor therewith, it must do so before the 'Eid Prayer and it may not give the money as Zakat-ul-Fitr.

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

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**Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee**