

Ruling concerning paying taxes with usurious money

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee

Article taken and slightly adapted from: ferkous.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: What is the ruling regarding paying taxes with usurious money? May Allaah reward you.

Shaykh Aboo `Abd-al-Mu`iz `Alee Farkous al-Qoobee (May Allaah the Most High preserve him): All praise is due to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds. Peace and blessing be upon whom Allaah sent as a mercy to the Worlds, upon his Family, his Companions and his Brothers until the Day of Resurrection:

What has to be known is that depositing money in banks is religiously not permissible because this entails contributing to the banks activities in interest-based transactions which are prohibited by religious texts that forbid usury, among which: the verses in which Allaah (Mighty and Majestic is He) says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَذَرُوا مَا بَقِيَ مِنَ الرِّبَا إِن كُنتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ فَإِن لَّمْ تَفْعَلُوا فَأْذَنُوا بِحَرْبٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَإِن تُبْتُمْ فَلَكُمْ رُءُوسُ أَمْوَالِكُمْ لَا تَظْلِمُونَ وَلَا تُظْلَمُونَ﴾

The meaning of the verse:

﴿O you who believe! Be afraid of Allaah and give up what remains (due to you) from Ribaa (usury) [from now onward], if you are [really] believers. And if you do not do it, then be informed of war from Allaah and His Messenger but if you repent, you shall have your capital sums. Deal not unjustly [by asking more than your capital sums], and you shall not be dealt with unjustly [by receiving less than your capital sums]﴾

[Al-Baqarah: 278-279]

And His saying (Mighty and Majestic is He):

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا تَأْكُلُوا الرِّبَا أَضْعَافًا مُّضَاعَفَةً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ﴾

The meaning of the verse:

﴿O you who believe! Eat not Ribaa doubled and multiplied﴾

[Aal-'Imraan: 130]

And other verses and hadeeths warning against this forbidden transaction.

Ruling concerning paying taxes with usurious money

However, if his deposited money in the bank brought forth a usury increase; it is incumbent upon him to repent of his injustice which is consuming other people's money unjustly. His repentance depends on getting rid of the forbidden money which can neither belong to him nor to the bank, but the forbidden money is general which has to be spent on the general utilities as well as on the benefits of the Muslims and their interests, since people who have been subject to injustice in these transactions -usury increase have been cut from their money- cannot be identified. And since this usury increase is considered as general money owned by all Muslims, he cannot pay the taxes -which has unjustly been imposed upon him- with the property of others because "Harm shall be warded off without harm" and "Harm shall not be warded off by similar harm" as it is stated in the general rules.

The perfect knowledge belongs to Allaah (*Mighty and Majestic is He*); and our last prayer is all the praises and thanks are to Allaah, the Lord of the Worlds, and prayers of Allaah are to Muhammad and his Family, Companions and Brothers until the Day of Resurrection.

Algiers on: Muharram 20th, 1427 H

Corresponding to February the 19th, 2006 G.