

# BRIBERY

## **Shariah Opinion On Bribery**

*What does the Shariah say about bribery?*

Amr bin Ala's reported that the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) said: "There is no people among whom adultery becomes widespread but are overtaken with famine and there is no people among whom bribery becomes widespread but are overtaken with fear." (Ahmad)

Bribery is a kind of theft, because the key determinant for defining misappropriation is that property is taken against the will (or without the knowledge) of an owner. The one taking the bribe relies on influence and coercion so that the one paying the bribe often acquiesces to an ostensive agreement, but the fact remains that the one bribed would simply rather not pay the bribe.

## **Bribe Given As Gift**

*May I accept or give a bribe in the form of a gift?*

Bribes given or taken in the guise of a gift remain bribes and are impermissible.

## **Bribe Given Willingly**

*Are willingly-given bribes valid?*

Even when the bribe is given or taken willingly, they are impermissible and the sin remains.

## **Compensation For Bribes Accepted**

*Am I liable to compensate the other for any bribes taken?*

It is obligatory to return money taken in bribes or to monetarily compensate individuals or institutions to the extent that one benefits from the bribe.