



The ruling on offering assistance to those who commit Riddah (apostasy)

Fatwa No. 7712

I was asked by an employee in the identity cards department that indicates that the person who recently embraces Islam should change his name especially if it contradicts Islam.

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It sometimes happens that some of them apostatize from Islam. This requires the re-changing of their names again to the previous case before Islam. There are many Islamic and non-Islamic rulings that are dependent upon these changes like inheritance, marriage and personal laws. The person asking this question works in the civilian department in the branch of identity cards. Will he be committing sin if he changes the names of such persons? Does his work support them in their Riddah? Moreover, he receives commands from his supervisors to do so. What is the ruling on all those people?

A: If you are aware that the person who wants to change his name is leaving Islam for disbelief, you should not offer him any kind of help even though your supervisor asks you to do so. Allah (may He be Exalted) says: ﴿ Help you one another in Al-Birr and At-Taqwâ (virtue, righteousness and piety); but do not help one another in sin and transgression. ﴾ The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said: ﴿ The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) cursed the devourer (taker) of Riba (usury/interest), its payer, its scribe and its two witnesses. He said, "They are all equal." ﴾ This Hadith was reported by Muslim in his Sahih. If he who helps in usury dealings is cursed, then how about he who helps in recording disbelief and facilitates the needs of those who commit Riddah. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: ﴿ Submission is obligatory only in what is good (and reasonable). ﴾

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﴿ There is no submission in matters involving Allah's disobedience or displeasure. ﴾

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

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