

### Starting a Camp to Collect Donated Blood

Q: Prohibitions and Permissions-7: Is it permissible to donate and receive blood? We are always hearing that when a Muslim needs blood he gets it from a blood bank, but Muslims never donate any blood. We are unable to get any blood from the blood bank because the doctor in charge is a non-Muslim and doctors prevent us from getting any from private blood banks because these banks collect blood from people who are intoxicated and people who are ill.

We have therefore decided to start a camp in which the young Muslims will donate blood to be used by Muslims in need of it. Can we do this?

Answer: When blood is removed from the body, it is classified as impure. Furthermore, since it is part of the human body, it deserves to be revered as such. It may therefore not be abused. However, if a righteous Muslim doctor or Hakeem is confident that it is required to save a person's life and there exists no other alternative, the blood may be used.

As far as donating blood is concerned, the original viewpoint is that it is not permissible because a person is not the owner of any part of his body and therefore has no right to do as he pleases with it. However, when a person requires blood urgently in a situation as described above, a relative may donate his blood to the person in need without asking any price. This is allowed because donating the blood does not entail any form of mutilation and will not produce any visible defect to the body.

However, only so much may be given as is necessary. This permission is however restricted to the situation where the need is immediately. One may therefore not donate blood to a blood bank. The camp in question is by the same token not allowed in the Shari'ah.

The solution to the difficulty stated is that you compile a list of all the willing donors together with their blood group. If an emergency does then occur afterwards, the donor related to the patient may then be summoned to donate the blood according to the conditions stated above. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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