

Islam Question & Answer

General Supervisor:
Shaykh Muhammad Saalih al-Munajjid

69 - Working for life insurance company

the question

Salam Alicom, A friend of mine has gotten an offer from a life insurance company in USA. He is a student but he must work to support himself and his study. what makes the problem worse is that he must find a job by Sept 97 otherwise he will be illegal and will be kicked out of the country. So my questions are: (1) is working in life insurance companies Haram? (2) Are this circumstances for my friend considered a necessity and can he get this job until get a better one instead of loosing everything?

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

Al-hamdu lillah (praise be to Allah). Life insurance is among the most severely prohibited types of insurance if not the single worst one. It is no doubt a type of gambling, and thus working in this field of employment is haram (prohibited), and it is forbidden to be a partner in helping people towards sin and enmity.

While taking into consideration the situation of this brother and the difficulty and distress that he has fallen into, I can but say: (translation of the meaning from surat al-Talaaq:2-3)

“And for those who fear Allah, He (ever) prepares for him a way out. And He provides for him from (sources) he could never expect” (65:2-3)