

## Guidance on International Charitable Giving

Muslim Advocates provides this general guidance to donors engaging in international charity. The laws for international philanthropy are complex and constantly evolving. This guidance seeks to clarify permissible and impermissible donations to groups or individuals.\* We urge donors to exercise due diligence prior to providing money, items or services abroad and to consult with an attorney for guidance tailored to your specific circumstances.



### **RED – Prohibited Items or Activities:**

- Money (in any form) or any item (example: food, blankets, tents, explosives, weapons, personnel, lodging, transportation, communications equipment) to a designated terrorist group\*
  - o Exceptions: medicine, religious materials
- Money (in any form) or any item directed to a country on the sanctions list\*\* (example: Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Syria)
- For non-US citizens, material support to any terror group listed or not listed by the US government can result in deportation or other adverse immigration action



### **YELLOW – Consult an Attorney Before Proceeding:**

- “Training,” “services,” or “expert advice” to a designated terrorist group:
  - o Medical services
  - o Medical equipment
  - o Medical training on treating infectious diseases
  - o Advice on conflict resolution



### **GREEN – Permissible Items & Activities:**

- Medicine
- Religious Materials

Permissible assuming *not* going to a designated terrorist group – for example:

- Donations to lawful, US-registered 501(c)(3) charities
- Food, drinking water
- Tents, blankets
- Latrines & sanitation equipment
- Medical services, medical equipment
- Clothing

\* To determine whether an organization has been designated a terrorist organization by the US government, check these two lists:

1) FTO (Foreign Terrorist Organization): <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/list/>

2) Specially Designated National List (SDN List) & Specially Designated Global Terrorist List (SDGT List): <http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/actions/index.shtml>

\*\* For more information regarding the country sanction list, visit <http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/programs/>

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