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Zakatul-Fitr (Fitra)

Zakatul-Fitr is a mandatory religious tax paid by those who can afford it at the end of the month of Ramadhan. It depends on the type of major item of food consumed by the believer during the year. This may be rice, wheat, barley, dates, etc. In weight, it should be at least three kilograms of food per person. It is also permissible to pay cash of equivalent value.

Due to the inflation and rising prices, we suggest that a *fitra* of $5.50 per person is reasonable. It must be paid by the head of the family on behalf of his dependents, including servants of both sexes, and/or dependent relatives who are fed in his house. If a Muslim or even a non-Muslim guest arrives at someone's house prior to the night preceding Eidul-Fitr and dines with his host, it is incumbent on the latter to pay for the former's *fitra*.

If the guest arrives after sunset of the night preceding the Eid, *fitra* is not obligatory even if he dines with his host. If the guest who arrives before sunset does not dine, *fitra* is still obligatory on his host. It is better, however, if both host and guest give *fitra*. If one's wife is at her parents' house on the night preceding the Eid, her parents should take out her *fitra*. On the last day of the month of Ramadhan, if someone arranges a *majlis* which commences after sunset, and if he treats his guests to *iftar*, he does not have to pay *fitra* on their behalf.

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