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## Munir el-Kassem: The 'Book of Jihad' allows the use of lottery money to fund Islamic projects in the West

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Author: Munir el-Kassem

Undated document

### Question

Assalamou Alaykom Dr. Munir

I hope that you are doing well Inshaa Allah.

I'm now the VP of the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan (IAS), and I have a question that I hope you find the time to answer or help us find an answer.

Typically, every year IAS applied for some funds (grants) for Education from an organization in Saskatchewan called SOHL. According to the financial statement of SOHL, close to 70% of their income is coming from Lotteries. Is it permissible for IAS to use SOHL's money?

Jazak Allah Khairan (Muslim greetings)

### Answer

Wa'Alaikum As-salam,

May Allah s.w. help you in executing your duties as VP in a manner acceptable to Him. In regard to your question, I want to relate to you a fatwa advanced by the late Mustapha Al-Zarqa, one of the most learned scholars of all times, who mentioned in his book 'Fatawa' (Religious Edicts): "The majority of scholars allow the use of funds from lottery corporations in Islamic projects for the benefit of the Muslim community living in the West, e.g. Qur'anic teaching, Arabic language teaching, helping needy families, etc. Imam abu Haneefa is very clear in allowing such a usage as explained by Ibn Aabdeen in his 'Hashiyah', 3rd volume under the heading "minorities" in the "book of Jihad". God knows best.

Munir El-kassem

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