

Case Brief

CHEATING PUBLIC AT LARGE BY DEPRIVING NUMBER OF PERSONS OF THEIR AMOUNT DEPOSITED FOR HAJJ BY Abdul Aqeel Owner of Aqeel Travel and Tours Nowshera Cantt

1. **Case background:**

- a. The subject case was initiated on the complaint lodged by 59 persons on 01-12-2008. Afterwards, a large number of applications were received from the affectees in this regard. Abdul Aqeel deprived them of their hard earned money on pretext of sending them on Hajj. The accused could not procure Hajj visas, thus denied the applicants from performing the sacred congregations of Hajj.
- b. An inquiry was authorized in the subject case on 02-12-2008. Record of Aqeel Travel and Tours was collected by the investigation team. After detailed scrutiny of record, seven bank accounts of the accused in four different banks were identified which were immediately freezed on 04-12-2008. Accountability Court also confirmed the freezing order issued by D.G. NAB (N.W.F.P) on 19-12-2008. Abdul Aqeel was arrested on 17 December 2008.

2. **Findings:**

- a. The accused Abdul Aqeel owner of Aqeel Travel & Tours along with some other travel Agents invited Hajj applications through advertisement in several newspapers. A total number of 407 Hajj applicants were registered.
- b. The bank accounts and other record revealed that though he has registered total number of **407** Hajj applicants but till date, the scam exposed, he actually received total amount of **Rs.50.118 Million**.
- c. The record as well as interrogation of accused Aqeel revealed that he was not an authorized Hajj Group Organizer. The Ministry of Hajj and Religious affairs Islamabad also confirmed this aspect and thus he was involved in an illegal business.

- d. The accused during interrogation revealed that he was defrauded by a foreigner lady named Kristina Diana through Naveed Sadiq r/o Kohat. She inked an agreement with accused on UN / Canada Vision letter pad, which later on proved fake with fictitious address and with no proper identification / designation of the lady. Accused paid **Rs 24.18 Million** to the foreigner lady in cash without obtaining any proper receipt / document.
- e. After receiving the above mentioned amount, Naveed Sadiq and the foreigner lady initially assured the accused that they will get Hajj passports in time and will arrange all other formalities before the stipulated time. All these assurances could not be materialized and they disappeared by deceiving the accused. Resultantly, the Hajj applicants were deprived of their deposited money and also from performing the sacred congregations of Hajj.
- f. The identity of the foreigner lady could not be traced from PISCES record available with FIA. Abdul Aqeel returned **Rs 7.08 Million** to various applicants through cheques and **Rs 3.00 Million** by disposing off his shop located at Cantt Plaza Nowshera and a vehicle. Financial aspects of the case in brief are as under:

	(Rs)	(Rs)
Total Amount Received		50.118M
Amount refunded	7.080M	
Assets disposed off to settle claims	3.000M	
Bank balance	<u>16.156M</u>	
	Sub Total	<u>26.236M</u>
Net Deficit		<u>23.882M</u>

3. Outcome of Investigation

Reference in the subject case has been filed in Accountability Court Peshawar against accused Abdul Aqeel Khan and Navid Sadiq. Trial of accused Abdul Aqeel is in process while Navide Sadiq has been declared Proclaimed Offender.