

LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTANIS DETAINED ABROAD

In pursuance of a directive by the honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan (2010), an amendment was made in the Pakistan Community Welfare & Education Fund (PCW&EF) guidelines so that necessary legal help could be made available to Pakistanis abroad awaiting repatriation. The following addition was made in the Rules governing utilization of PCW&EF, contained in Rule 10.4 of the Chapter 10 of Financial Management at Missions Abroad.

“ Legal assistance to Pakistan detained abroad including payment of lawyers fee, fines and cost of repatriation of destitute Pakistan detainees /prisoners on completion of sentences of release from detention. In all such cases expenditure will only be incurred after obtaining approval of the Foreign Secretary”.

Financial Management
at
Missions Abroad
Volume - I
Guidelines for
Accounting

Chief Accounts Officer
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CHAPTER - X

10.4 Utilization of the Fund

10.4.1 The Head of Mission is competent to authorize expenditure from the fund in accordance with the following guidelines. The PCWEF will be available for:

- I. Welfare schemes for Pakistani community abroad.
- II. Improvement of Pakistani schools.
- III. Any legitimate expenditure on the maintenance of destitute Pakistanis other than that to be met out of Government funds under the existing rules
- IV. Repatriation of such destitute Pakistanis, who in the considered opinion of the Head of the Mission, would be unable to bear expenditure on their return passage to Pakistan and whose case falls in the overall definition of “Welfare of Pakistanis”.
- V. Provision of legal aid through local lawyers to protect Pakistani workers abroad from exploitation by Foreign Employers.
- VI. In countries where there is a need for promotion of a sense of national and cultural identity rather than welfare projects, Financial Assistance could be provided from the fund for the projection of Pakistani culture over radio, T.V and Press Media. Religious education for expatriate children could also be supported from these funds.
- VII. Expenditure on consular visits to different parts of country of their accreditation, subject to the conditions that the frequency of visits & strength of visiting team would require prior approval of Foreign Secretary.
- VIII. **Legal assistance to Pakistan detained abroad including payment of lawyer’s fee, fines and cost of repatriation of destitute Pakistan detainees /prisoners on completion of sentences of release from detention. In all such cases expenditure will only be incurred after obtaining approval of the Foreign Secretary.**
