43146 - Is it permissible to transfer zakah from one country to another?

the question

Is it permissible to give zakah to another country, such as Palestine, when there are poor people in my country?.

Detailed answer

Praise be to Allah.

It says in Fatawa al-Lajnah al-Daa'imah, 10/9:

Zaka should be given to those whom Allah has said it is for, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

"As-Sadaqaat (here it means Zakah) are only for the Fuqaraa' (poor), and Al-Masaakeen (the poor) and those employed to collect (the funds); and to attract the hearts of those who have been inclined (towards Islam); and to free the captives; and for those in debt; and for Allah's Cause (i.e. for Mujaahidoon — those fighting in a holy battle), and for the wayfarer (a traveller who is cut off from everything); a duty imposed by Allah. And Allah is All-Knower, All-Wise" [al-Tawbah 9:60]

It should only be given to those who are obviously Muslims, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to Mu'aadh ibn Jabal when he sent him to Yemen: "Tell them that Allah has enjoined upon them charity [i.e. zakah], to be taken from their rich and given to their poor." The more pious and righteous the poor and needy to whom it is given are, the more deserving they are than others.

The basic principle with regard to zakah is that it should be given to the poor in the land where the wealth is, because of the hadeeth mentioned above. But if there is a need to transfer it elsewhere, such as the poor in the land to which it is transferred being in greater need, or because the giver

has relatives who are poor, etc, then it is permissible to transfer it.

And Allah knows best.