



## Blood Money and Plea Bargaining

[Source: TH](#)

The **death sentence** of an Indian nurse in **Yemen** for allegedly murdering her business partner, along with efforts involving **blood money (diya under Sharia law)** for her **acquittal**, has reignited debates over its implications.

- **Blood money** refers to money paid as **compensation** for **unintentional murder**, culpable homicide, or when victims' families **forgo retribution (qisas)**.
  - Even after reconciliation, the **state** retains the right to **impose penalties**.
- **India's Position:** India does **not** formally recognize **blood money**.
  - The legal system offers '**plea bargaining**' as a negotiation tool but it is not available for **crimes against women or children aged below 14**, heinous crimes such as **murder or rape** etc.
    - It outlines a procedure where the **accused pleads guilty** in exchange for **concessions** from the prosecutor, potentially including **victim compensation**.
    - It was introduced through the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2005** to the [Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 \(BNS\)](#).
    - It can be taken up only for offences that are penalised with **imprisonment of less than 7 years**.
- **Ancient India:** Kautilya's [Arthashastra](#) and **Manusmriti** discussed fines and reparations as part of **legal remedies for offenses**.

Read more: [Issue of Indians Jailed Abroad](#)

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