



**Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council**  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Eastern District of Wisconsin

***Fraud Follows Disasters***

Major disasters ravage the world. From cyclones to tornadoes to quakes, the recent disasters have created an immediate need for help. The Red Cross is one of several international agencies that send relief supplies and volunteers to areas that need it. Disasters such as the recent quake in China are still being assessed, but if people decide to donate, it is important to do their homework on the organization they choose. Donors can contact the Better Business Bureau (BBB) for information on several reputable non-profits. Red Cross officials said, especially now, money is needed.

The BBB is offering eight tips to ensure aid goes to the right people, including those affected by the cyclone in Myanmar. They are:

- Rely on Expert Opinion when it comes to evaluating a charity.
- Find out if the charity has an on-the-ground continuing presence in Myanmar or China.
- Find out who will benefit in Myanmar or China and what type of assistance they will be provided.
- Be wary of claims that 100 percent of donations will assist earthquake or typhoon victims.
- Find out if the charity is providing direct aid or raising money for other groups that are active in Myanmar or China.
- Be cautious of giving online.
- Gifts of clothing food or other in-kind donations are not recommended.
- If tax deduction is a concern, donate domestically.

Sources: <http://www.14wfi.com/Global/story.asp?S=8312900> and  
<http://www.newschannel10.com/Global/story.asp?S=8304801> via DHS Daily Report

Questions/Comments/Suggestions should be addressed to:  
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