



THE MOON SIGHTING

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Islamic Date Calendar



Central Moon Sighting Committee of Great Britain

Hilal of Ramadhan 1434H was not sighted in Saudi Arabia or in the UK on the evening of Monday 29th Shaban 1434H/8th July 2013, therefore Shaaban 1434H Rasmī (Shar'ee) completed 30 days and Rasmī Ramdhan 1434 Starts after Maghrib Salat on Tuesday 9th July 2013. The first Fast of Ramadhan is on Wednesday 10 July 2013

NB: Both the Shar'ee and Civil dates (Umul-Qura Calander) are not the same. Civil (Umul-Qura) dates are one day ahead.

Hold fast to the Prophetic Principle!

According to Shari'ah we cannot incorporate the use of scientific theories for moon sighting. The first major attempt to change the Prophetic principle was carried out by the Shi'ite Fatimid dynasty of North Africa.

(1) Fatwa Daarul Ifta Darul Uloom Deoband

Having studied the solar and lunar calendar as well as the causes for changes in them and thereafter repeatedly studying the Metonic Jewish and Christian new-moon theory it has been concluded that such calculations of astronomy cannot be used as proof in Shari'ah and they cannot be used as a guide as well. The rulings of Shari'ah are based on clear-cut and definite principles whereas the hypothetical new-moon calculations are not definite thus no ruling of Shari'ah will be based on it. And Allah Ta'aala Knows Best

(H. of Darul Ifta) (Mufti) Habeebur Rahman Head Mufti Daarul Uloom Deoband 17 Rabee'ul Awwal 1430

Answer Confirmed as Correct (Mufti) Zainul Islam Qasmi (Vice) (Mufti) Mahmood Hasan Bulandshahri (Mufti) Waqar Ali (Mufti) Fakhru'l Islam

(2) Fatwa Haz. Maulana Rashid Ahmad Gangohi رحمه الله ; upon stating that it will be compulsory to adopt the sighting of Makkah, He writes: If the moon is sighted in Calcutta on Friday night but was sighted in Makkah on Thursday night and the people of Calcutta were not aware that Friday was the first day of Ramadhan in Makkah then whenever they do become aware it will become necessary upon them to celebrate Eid on the same date as the people of Makkah and make up for the first fast that they missed (by keeping one fast after Eid). (Kaukabud Durriy - Commentary on Tirmidhi Pg.336)

(3) Fatwa Shaikhul Islam Maulana Husain Ahmed Madani RA about the Moon sighting in Saudi Arabia Answer: This is no new research and ideology. This was researched by science in the past as well. However (Islamic) laws are not based on the birth of the moon but rather on the physical sighting of it. Fasting, Hajj, Zakaah etc are all based on the physical sighting of the moon not on its birth. (DurrulMukhtar Vol.2/Pg.387)

According to my opinion Egypt, Hijaz etc all practice the physical sighting of the moon and not on the hypothetical theoreticly calculated birth of the moon; otherwise the system of testimony would not have remained. The basis is not on new research. (Fataawa Shaikhul Islam)

(4) Fatwa Mufti Rashid Ahmad Ludhyanwi رحمه الله : Astronomy-based calculations are definitely not used to 'establish the sighting of the moon.' They regard such a practice as 'Haram' (forbidden) and base their decisions on 'testimony of physically observing the moon.' 'I have, in my possession,' an article written by Shaikh bin Baaz and the (Saudi) Ministry of Justice on this subject. They can be photocopied and sent on request. The reason they sight the moon based on some other factors which do not need to be mentioned here. 'Due to the fact that

(6) Fatwa by Mufti Muhammed Taqi Uthmani DB, Pakistan, considering the quotation made on 4.4.2006 by Al Hajj Ghulam Ali HA from Glasgow at UK : In your query, sometime Saudia's announcement could be doubtful since it is impossible to sight the Hilal by Observatories calculation and you submitted their examples, but Observatories calculations sighting possibility/ impossibility is not permitted and this is the correct opinion of big group of Ulama. Darul Uloom Karachi issued a more informative Fatwa on this subject of Hazrat Mufti Muhammed Rafi Uthmani DB with his signature, in which he said that follower of JamhurUlama four Immas are unanimous that testimony also accepted even if it is against any observatory calculation. The Shahaadah (testimony) would be reliable and not the 'impossibility calculation' (Fataawa 461/76, 461/85)

(7) Fatwa Mufti Ahmad Khanpuri (HA) Darul Ifta, Jamia Ta'limuddin, Dabhel Answer: it is stated in the "Mahmulul Fatawa" that Observatory's prediction and astronomical calculations are not acceptable in terms of moon sighting. It is almost ijma. Shaikhul Hadith Moulana Zakariyah (R.A.) wrote in "Awjazul Masalik" that it is incorrect to brand Mufrif Bin Abdullah (The Tabea RA) as in favour of astronomical calculation. (Awjazul Masalik v 5 P16) It is proven from above mentioned quotes that Astronomical calculations and observatory's predictions have no value in moon sighting subject. It is even proven as a unanimous decision....., similarly if reliable persons come across and give testimony that we witnessed the moon; this testimony will be taken under consideration, despite being opposite to astronomical facts..... It is clear from this discussion that if calculation says it is impossible to see the moon on specific day and Islamic witnesses say they saw the moon, in this instance witnesses will be taken on consideration. They will not be rejected because of calculation..... Allah knows best (Head Mufti) Ahmed Khanpuri (2ND Zilqad 1430) (A.Curact by) Mufti Abdussamad Rajkoti (Mufti) Dauood Bismillah (Hafizahomullah) (Seal of Darul Ifta)

(8) Fatwa Mufti Mahmood Gangohi RA ; Answer; As far as I am informed the Saudi Government is very particular with the sighting of the moon especially with regards to Haj. Wherever the sighting is observed a testimony is immediately taken in court and effort is made to have all the Judges in every area available who then engage in thorough verification of the testimony after which they make a decision which is then communicated and announced.This is the common system and if the sighting at one's local area is different to the sighting in Saudi Arabia it will be incorrect to regard the Haj and Sacrifice of animals by the Hujjaaj as not valid and it is also incorrect to regard the difference in date with one's local area as interference in the religion by Saudi Authorities. (Al Mahmood Monthly, October 2008 Pg.43 - Ref: Mufti Me'raajud Deen)

(9) Fatwa Darul Ifta Mazahirul Uloom Saharanpur; Astronomy and its theories are not acceptable at all with regards to the sighting of the moon and this is a unanimously accepted

Fasting, Eid and Hajj are done under shari'ah rulings thus there is no doubt regarding them being correct (Ahsanul Fataawa Vol.4/Pg.491-494).

(5) Fatwa Jamiah Farooqiyah, Karachi, Pakistan... Al Jawaab; (A of Q.1) The answer that emerges in terms of Shari'ah Thuboot Hilal is from the practise of Rasoolullah S.A.W. , the practise of the companions R.A., and the Ijma, consensus, of the Ummah which points to sight the Hilal not based on scientific theory and calculations. The proof is well known of Prophet's Ahadith, From the ruling of the Companions RD and the Aimmah ujtahidin.... Hence it is not permitted Mettonic new moon theory and it's calculation to prove or reject or any kind of support for Shari'ah Thuboot of sighting. (A of Q. 2 & 4) If on the 29th according to new moon theory or calculations sighting is impossible or possible or sighting is certain, and despite this witnesses come forward, then the predictions will be set aside totally and the decision will be made based on Shari'ah Thuboot Hilal (unconditional naked eye sighting)..... Faqat, (Wrote by) Mufti Mohammed Rashid Daskavi (H.A.), (Second Mufties) Mohammed, Yusuf Afshani (H.A.), (Mufti) Abdul Bari (H.A.), 25.1.1431H (Stamp)

Ramadhan 1434AH
Duration: July-Aug 2013

Saudi Rasmī (Shar'ee) Calendar-Dates
The Islamic Week Starts Every Friday

Islamic Date Calendar

First of Ramadhan 1434AH
Commenced on the evening of Tuesday 9th July 2013

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sunnah acts (Sunnah: the practice of Prophet Muhammad SAW, emulation of which attains great reward)
1. To fast on the days of Yaum-e-Beadh these are the 13, 14 & 15 except during Ramadhan where fasting is obligatory for the whole month.
2. To look the new moon crescent at the end of the Rasmī 29 day, please contact us to report a sighting.

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fact. The blessed statement of Rasoolullah ﷺ in this regard is: لا نكتب إلا أمة أمة لا نكتب. We are an illiterate nation. We do not know how to write or count. This means that we do not even know how to write and count let alone base the starting and end of a month on such writing and counting..... (Mirqaatul Mafaateeh Vol.4/Pg.246 and Shaami Vol.2/Pg.92) Thus if the moon is sighted and truly established in accordance to this principle of Shari'ah then the start or end of the month will be established regardless of whether such a sighting was possible or not according to the theories and calculations of astronomy..... And Allah Ta'aala Knows Best (Mufti) Muhammad Taahir Mazaahirul Uloom, Saharanpur 22 Safar 1430, Answer Confirmed as Correct (Mufti) Maqsood 22.2.1430

NB; Please see our Hilal Sighting English / Urdu Books for more Fatwa and full references above Fatawa in our website:
www.hizbululama.org.uk