



THE MOON SIGHTING

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER

Islamic Date Calendar



Central Moon Sighting Committee of Great Britain

The Astronomy based Conferences including WML against Shariah and Saudi's Rasmi Hilal decisions

The Ample proof that Saudi's do not rely on Ummul Qura calendar for Rasmi (sharee) Hilal Dates decisions

(Continue from MMN of Jumada Al ula 1433 ,the 3rd and last part)

<http://www.binbaz.org.sa/mat/8413>

There are available a plethora of statements from numerous scholars insisting that for religious observance, the Saudis do not follow the Umm Ul Qura Calendar but take testimonies of witnesses in fulfilment of the Sharee requirement of sighting the moon with the naked eye. To dismiss this overwhelming Qat'i evidence, and to continue to claim that the Saudi's are lying, or the Kazi's were deceived, or that there is a major governmental conspiracy, and in reality they actually follow the Pre-Calculated Umm Ul Qura Calendar, is surely a very contemptuous, scornful and disdainful view which is arrogant and conceited to say the least. This stance ignores the stated stance of not just the Saudi Scholars but also the Scholars of the Indian Sub Continent and others in the Muslim world.

A Scholar with extensive knowledge of the Saudi Sharee system of moon sighting and hilal determination recently said, "To reject the statements of hundreds of reputable scholars, and assume that they are all lying, is an extremely radical position, to say the least."

The Umm Ul Qura official site clearly states that the calendar is for civil purposes and for religious festivals Sharee sighting is required. So why can't we accept the announcements from Saudi Arabia?

The reality on the ground also supports the statement of the Scholars and the Government Authorities. This is clearly demonstrated by the chart on moonsighting.com which shows that the Saudi's do differ from the Ummul Qura calendar from time to time. The most recent example is the example of Muharram 1433 which deviated from the Calendar, thus nullifying their whole argument.

The information provided by Dr Khalid on moonsighting.com demonstrate that if the Saudis were only following the Umm Ul Qura Calendar there should not be even one instance where the announcement differed from the Umm Ul Qura Calendar. We find, however, that in the last 7 years, there were 6 instances where they did not follow the Umm Ul Qura Calendar. Many sightings of course accord with the Calendar at other times but this cannot be used as a basis for accusing the Saudi's of deceit. If even one departure happens then this completely nullifies the argument that the Saudi's follow the Umm Ul Qura

calendar. Do the dates predicted by Astronomical Calculations not accord with sighting decisions by those who have adopted the use of calculations? They always do. Can we then not accuse them of fixing a calendar based on calculations?

Even Dr Mohammad Odeh of Icooproject does not accept this overconfident stance that the Saudi's follow the Ummul Qura Calendar:

"We have to be honest and realistic! As for me I don't believe that they insist on following the Calendar! They did divert from the Calendar for all the months several times, including Ramadan, Shawwal, Dhul Hijjah, and Muharram"

Arguments are also made about the veracity of sighting claims and that the Authorities so readily accept sighting claims which accord with the Umm Ul Qura. This argument is highly simplistic, speculative and egotistical.

What is also pointed out are the differences between the Scholars in accepting testimonies amongst Saudi Scholars. The fact of the

matter is, of course there are differences and in any dhanni matter there is always going to be differences. Some scholars believe in stricter conditions and would prefer a stricter application. However, the vast majority of scholars in Saudi Arabia are happy with the conditions required for witnesses. This really is not much different to any other contemporary fiqh matter in any other country in the world and amongst Scholars of the same School of thought, Hanafi, Maliki, Hanbali or Shafi'.

As Sharee requirements in Saudi Arabia are being met this is what matters most.

What is irrelevant is that sighting claims conflict with astronomical calculations. This is not a standard accepted by the vast majority of Scholars the world over who rule that astronomical calculations should be ignored when witnesses come forward. A great deal has already been written about this issue in previous articles and there is therefore no need for us to keep repeating and labouring this point. It is a widely accepted principle throughout the Muslim world. The Fatawa of Mufti Taqi and Mufti Rafi' provided above should suffice.

Listen to the You tube discussion with Sheikh Munajjid participating and his views on the witnesses. Listen also to the so called 'Bedouin' (Dr Abdullah al-Khudairy) who has claimed to see the moon on frequent occasions.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GafmdZs9pnE&feature=related>

The Saudi scholars in the Judiciary have certain conditions to accept witness accounts, and so long as they are satisfied with the witness accounts they declare the sightings. It is as simple and straightforward as that. See video link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_uT6Ro3Ekg&feature=related

The scholars in Saudi Arabia are steadfastly against calculations and insist that it must be sighted by the eye. See links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pyk2Z6mHZ8Q>

<http://www.almunajjid.com/article/6119>

See also the link below with discussion on moon sighting in Saudi Arabia between scholars from both sides:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVuCKJkTu9Y>

See also recent article on this topic:

http://www.hizbululama.org.uk/highlights/1432ah/ramdan/1_Fatawa_from_SAUDI.pdf

The famous Sharee principle of being rewarded once, if the outcome of Sharee deliberation is wrong, and twice, if the deliberation leads to the correct conclusion, should be borne in mind. The correct procedure advised by our Scholars in the light of the Quran and Sunnah is to respect differing opinions and leave each group to follow the scholars they feel comfortable with.

The conclusion is that those who are satisfied with the Saudi procedure can confidently follow them. Those who are not happy can follow another country. There is absolutely no issue here about the permissibility of Salah and Fasting in this, no matter how much some people argue that if you follow Saudi Arabia your Salah and Fast will not be accepted. Do not be fooled by them. It is all a matter of Ijtihad. InshaAllah your Ibadah will be accepted. Allah is All knowing, compassionate and merciful.

Wama Alaina Ilal Balagh.

RAJAB 1433AH
Duration: May-June 2012

Saudi Ummul Qura Calendar Dates
The Islamic Week Starts Every Friday

Islamic Date Calendar

First of RAJAB 1433AH
Commenced on the evening of Monday 21st May 2012

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
				1 ²² May	2 ²³	3 ²⁴
4 ²⁵	5 ²⁶	6 ²⁷	7 ²⁸	8 ²⁹	9 ³⁰	10 ³¹
11 ¹ June	12 ²	13 ³	14 ⁴	15 ⁵	16 ⁶	17 ⁷
18 ⁸	19 ⁹	20 ¹⁰	21 ¹¹	22 ¹²	23 ¹³	24 ¹⁴
25 ¹⁵	26 ¹⁶	27 ¹⁷	28 ¹⁸	29 ¹⁹	30 ²⁰	

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 Rasmi 29 day, please contact us to report a sighting.

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