



## Evidence Supporting The Reliability of Moon Sighting in SAUDI ARABIA !

Recently, there has been a lot of negative talk and rumours circulating around the country regarding the reliability of the Saudi Arabian Moonsighting; which even went to the extreme that an individual, before Ramadhan challenged us to a MUBAHALA, alleging that no one coming from outside Saudi Arabia had seen the first moon inside Saudi Arabia. Thus, we are publishing this pamphlet in order to clarify and backup, the reliability and infalability of the Saudi Arabian Moon.

I recently, in this month of Ramadhan, visited Saudi Arabia along with the Ulema of the Western World, including the West Indies, to perform Umrah, as a complementary visit on behalf Saudi Arabian Airlines. I was one of the Alims present together with Maulana Yakub Munshi Qasmi Kawiwala.

During our visit as a delegation, we were introduced, one night after Tarawih in Madinah, to the Governer of Madinah. This was an informal arrangement, not pre-planned for any particular subject. During the conversation, various matters were put forward to the Governer, one Alim from the U.S.A. commented to the Governer that the moon in Saudi Arabia is always sighted before the time the Observatories say that it should be sighted, and a lot of disunity is being caused due to this anomoly.

In reply, the Governer stated that; Firstly, the means used to sight the moon was only through the naked eye, as stated in the Shar'iah Laws. No other means such as Observatories or any other pre-calculated methods are used to mark the beginings of the Islamic months, and Eidain. Secondly, he stated that the laws of the Shar'iah laid out in the Qur'aan, backed through various Hadith of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) were in force.

After which I stated to the Governer; Firstly, I introduced myself telling the governer and the delegation that I was the Secretary General of the **Central Moonsighting Committee of Great Britain** (which is of the Hizbul Ulema U.K. and Jamiatul Ulema Britain), it is our job of informing Mosques in Britain through Islamic Calender pamphlets about the begining of Islamic months Eidain, and Ramadhan in accordance with the Saudi Arabian moon. Secondly, I told the Governer about the problem of the Observatories, because it was outlined by the Alim from the U.S.A. which was further exasperated because of the Observatories in the U.K. which contradicted moonsightings in previous years by Muslims. One such case was on 27th May 1987, when 16 Muslims, including 2 women, from Blackburn and Batley, had sighted the moon for Eidul Fitr 1407h which was 4.5 hours old, contradicting the view of the Observatories.

Apart from this, I told the Governer that we also have in our records, cases of other reported sightings of the moon in accordance with Saudi Arabia. Due to these witnesses, the British Muslims fully trust that the reliability of moonsighting in Saudi Arabia is legitimate as it is carried out according to the Laws of Shar'iah laid down in the Qur'aan backed up through various Hadith's of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W).

For backup, I told the Governer about my experience, when in the Hajj of 1989, I, along with my family, visited Saudi Arabia in order to perform Pilgrimage.

During our stay in Madina, from the 28<sup>th</sup> till 30<sup>th</sup> Dhul-Qad 1409h, in order to see the moon I looked for the place of sunset, so that in turn, I knew where to look for the first Crescent of Dhul-Hajj 1409h, under the shadow of the Dome of the Prophet (S.A.W)'s Mosque. The moon was witnessed on 30<sup>th</sup> Dhul-Qad, firstly by my son Masiullah, followed by myself and the rest of my family, and the thousands of other Muslims present. The Hajj of 1409h, was duly announced 3 days later, according to the sighting which we had witnessed. After which I contacted the Observatories in Britain, who confirmed that the moon which we had sighted was 11 hours and 15 mins. old at that time. [ Thus proving that Saudi Arabia used the moon seen by the naked eye to announce the Hajj of 1409h, according to the Laws of the SHAR'IAH ]

In reply, the Governer stressed that only the Shar'iah Laws laid down in the Qur'aan according to the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W), are used in the sighting of the moon. Further stating that, "We only announce the moon if sighted by the naked eye, the only problem remaining is that of *unity*. By following us, unity will be insured, otherwise disunity will prevail."

Furthermore, he stated, "Those who question and degrade the reliability of the Saudi moon, do so because of political not religious bias."

After the reply from the Governer, I noted that no fellow delegate questioned the Governer, or myself, any further on this issue, as all those present were united in the view that the Saudi moon was perfectly reliable in Islamic terms, as it has always been. The conversation was concluded after matters on pilgrimage were discussed.

Later on, another Alim from the U.S.A. told me that a moon was sighted in his country, when it was 9 hours old, I then requested him to send me the report of the sighting, and he agreed.

*In conclusion, we request that the Muslims of Britain do not question the reliability of the Saudi Arabian moonsighting news, as it is sighted in full accordance with the Laws of Shar'iah laid out in the Qur'aan, and backed by the Hadith of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W).*

*Dear brothers/sisters, in previous years there were quarrels in our Mosques about the moonsightings. Allah (S.W) bless the Muftiyanne-Kiram for giving the Fatawa to follow Saudi Arabia on moonsighting, confirmed by U.K. Ulema-Kiram. Thus for 6 years, we have followed Saudi Arabia for Ramadhan and Eidain, and now instead of quarrels, Zikr is taking place in our Mosques.*  
**ALHUMDOLILLAH.**

May Allah (S.W) give us full unity between Muslims.  
AMEEN. There is no need for any further evidence! JAZAKOMULLAH  
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