



# 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 MMNL of Jumada Al ula 1433's)

This Resolution is being quoted out of context.

Why is it that they have had the need to refer to such an old document when there are more recent resolutions and announcements which prove that the Saudi authorities follow the Shariah?

What they will hide from you is that the Resolution in question is based on previous meetings and conferences. To be transparent you have to gather all of the resolutions and then understand the statements in its proper context. This is a basic requirement for all points of discussion if the discussion and debate is true in its intent. Their intent however is to find something to accuse the Saudi's of and this is open for all to see in their various email discussions etc.

Let us look at Point 5 of the Islamic Fiqh Academy resolution which has been taken out of context and misinterpreted. Point 2 is overlooked from the previous resolution quoted in the same document, which states that:

"It is compulsory to rely upon sighting, and seek assistance from astronomical calculations..."

This makes it quite clear that the basis of religious decisions is based on sighting as the Shariah necessitates.

Again to re-emphasize the point the resolution begins by reminding of the previous resolutions and states that the beginning and ending of Ramadan, and Dhill Hijjah is done by a Sharee sighting.

Point 3 then states, that upon which disagreement is not allowed is the necessity of relying upon sighting.

If the above points are understood then it is easy to explain point 4, which is that there would be a unified calendar used by all Muslims but religious festivals would have to be determined by sighting only. There is nothing sinister in this which is what proponents would have you believe.

The allegation about the purpose of the Resolution is therefore incorrect. However even if we were to accept that the meaning of the resolution is to fix a calendar for religious purposes and abandon Sharee sighting, then recent more clearer statements need to be considered because of the famous Usuli principle that a clear statement takes precedence over an ambiguous one. There are countless statements from Saudi Scholars and the authorities which maintain resolutely that they follow the Shariah.

These clear and unambiguous statements by the religious authorities prove that they do not follow the Pre-calculated Umm Ul Qura Calendar for religious festivals. Even the statement on the official website for the Umm Ul Qura Calendar by the Director, makes this clear:

وتقويم أم القرى هو تقويم اصطلاحى مدنى، ويعتمد فى اثبات دخول أوائل الأشهر للمواسم الدينية على الرؤية والله من وراء القصد، لشرعية

[http://www.ummulqura.org.sa/president\\_address.aspx](http://www.ummulqura.org.sa/president_address.aspx)

Now if someone chooses not to accept these clear statements and still refer to the ambiguous document i.e. the Resolution, then this is foolish in the extreme. Note that the ambiguous document (the Resolution) is only ambiguous to those who choose to interpret differently, not to those who understand it in its full and proper context.

What the Resolution does is to

encourage Muslims to work towards a unified calendar. Such wording is quite common in fiqh resolutions. When read in its proper context, one cannot conclude that it means we should not demand sighting the moon with the naked eye, and simply follow the Pre-Calculated Umm Ul Qura Calendar. This is making a travesty of the meaning of the Resolution.

The first clause in the Istanbul resolution states:

الأصل هو رؤية الهلال سواء أتمت بالعين المجردة أم بطرق الرصد العلمية الحديثة

<http://qasweb.org/qasforum/index.php?showtopic=87>

The Mali resolutions further states:

أ. إعداد تقويم هجري موحد تلتزم به الدول الإسلامية، وذلك باعتبار ولادة الهلال قبل غروب الشمس، وبشرط مغيبه بعد غروبيه، حسب توقيت مكة المكرمة، أو أي بلد إسلامي يشترك معها في جزء من الليل بزم يمكن أن تتحقق معه الرؤية الشرعية بدخول الشهر، وذلك عن طريق لجنة مختصة تقوم بإعداد هذا التقويم

It continues:

إثبات دخول شهر رمضان وخروجه، ودخول شهر ذي الحجة يتم عن طريق الرؤية الشرعية المنفكة عما يكتبها علماء أو عقلا أو حسا، عملا بقول النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم صوموا لرؤيته وأفطروا لرؤيته؛ فإن غم عليكم فاكملوا شعبان ثلاثين يوما.

<http://www.jasas.net/vb/showthread.php?t=871>

The latest conference held in Tunis, re-iterates:

ثانياً: يجب الاعتماد على الرؤية، ويستعان بالحساب الفلكي والمراسد، مراعاة للأحاديث النبوية، والحقائق العلمية

And to completely avoid any misunderstanding it emphatically states:

أولاً: إن استنكار القرارات الصادرة عن مؤتمرات القمة الإسلامية ومجلس وزراء خارجية الدول الأعضاء في المنظمة حول التقويم الهجري الموحد لبداية الشهور القمرية وتوحيد الأعياد الإسلامية والتي نصت على أن إثبات دخول شهر رمضان وخروجه ودخول شهر ذي الحجة يتم عن طريق الرؤية الشرعية المنفكة عما يكتبها علماء أو عقلا أو حسا عملا بقول النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم: "صوموا لرؤيته وأفطروا لرؤيته فإن غم عليكم فاكملوا شعبان ثلاثين يوماً" وبقوله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "لا تصوموا حتى تروه"

يحض على الأخذ في الاعتبار الدعاوات الملحة إلى ضمان أسباب وحدة الأمة الإسلامية خاصة في مثل هذه المناسبات التي هي من أهم مميزاتها في سبيل تجاوز مظاهر الفرقة والنزاع التي تمس من هبة المسلمين.

<http://www.fiqhacademy.org.sa/akhbar/5-7-2009.htm>

إن الأحاديث الصحيحة قد استفادت عن رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم بالأمر باعتماد الرؤية وإكمال العدة وعدم الالتفات إلى الحساب. فوجب على المسلمين جميعاً أن يبنوا كانوا أن يأخذوا بذلك ويعتمدوه ، ولا يجوز لهم أن يكذبوا الثقات في رؤية الهلال بأن المرصد الفلاني زعم كذا ، أو بأن المرصد الأخرى زعمت كذا أو بأن مؤتمر استنبول وضع كذا.

(Rest article will be next time)

**Jumada Al Akhir 1433AH**  
Duration: April-May 2012

**Saudi Ummul Qura Calendar Dates**  
The Islamic Week Starts Every Friday

**First of Jumad'1 Ukhra 1433AH**  
Commenced on the evening of Saturday 21st April 2012

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

**Sunnah acts** (Sunnah: the practice of Prophet Muhammad SAW, emulation of which attains great reward)  
1. To fast on the days of Yaum-e-Bedh 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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