



Central Moon Sighting Committee of Great Britain

(Jamiatul Ulama Britain, Darul Uloom Bury, Hizbul Ulama UK)

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Has Saudi Arabia abandoned sighting of the crescent from this Ramadan?

A statement circulated by Molvi Danka appeared on the Majlis Ul Ulama website claiming that Saudi Arabia has announced Eid on Tuesday 30th August in advance. Mufti Desai uses this to say 'it is haraam to end ramadhaan on the basis of the pronouncements of Saudi Arabia'. It is claimed on Majlis website that 'Saudi Arabia has abandoned the Shariah's method of beginning and ending the Islamic months. It no longer goes by the physical sighting (ROOYAH) of the moon. It has forged its own calendar and decides Ramadhaan, Eid and the Islamic months in accordance therewith, not according to the command of Rasulullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam)".

Mufti Desai has based his ruling on the article by Molvi Danka who (ie Molvi Danka) appears to have acted highly irresponsibly by making a wild accusation without any proper basis. Has Saudi made this announcement? Where is the evidence? Why have the Arab press not picked up on this?

Molvi Danka makes this spurious claim based on the Ummul Qura Calendar showing 29 days. This is very lame by anyone's standards specifically coming from an Aalim representing Ulama and who is an Imam of a Masjid at Croydon.

See link:

http://www.themajlis.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=120:hilaaldeterminations-of-saudi-arabia-not-valid&catid=34:majlis-articles&Itemid=27

The fact is that the Saudi Authorities have already called on observers to try and sight the hilal on the 29th of August.

RIYADH, City, Ramadan 26, 1432, Aug 26, 2011, SPA -- The Supreme Court has called on Muslims in the Kingdom to sight the crescent of the lunar month of Shawwal Monday evening, Ramadan 29, 1432, Aug 29, 2011.

Whoever sees the Shawwal crescent with the naked eye or through a telescope, binoculars or monocular should report to the nearest court or the region's governorate if there is no court in the area and register his testimony, the Supreme Court said in a statement.

(Saudi Press Agency English - 26 August 2011)

(وكالة الأنباء السعودية)

The real truth is that some people will clutch at straws to condemn the Shara'ee Sunnah hilal determination of Saudi Arabia. Molvi Danka nor anyone else can show conclusively with any proper evidence of this claim. The only reference by Molvi Danka is to the Ummul Qura calendar which shows the last day of Ramadan is Tuesday 29th August. There is nothing new in this .The last day of Ramadhan will be depend on the Ruyah of Hilal. The Ummul Qura calendar has been in use for decades and is limited to civil use. It is not used for religious days. This is no different to any other Islamic calendar used for civil purposes such as in the UK by Muslim groups or South Africa or Indo Pak which show calendars with 29 or 30 days but the observance is dependent on Ruyate Hilal.

(Click to see response to the baseless rumours) (What Fazil Bareli says about Astronomy & Saudia) (More Fatawa of Brelvi Maktab)

The Saudi Scholars have repeatedly stressed that they follow the shariah to the extent where they shun calculations (which are not permitted by shariah) and that they sight the hilal before making announcements. Why should we not believe them? The only reason why some people claim they do not sight the hilal in Saudi is because astronomical calculations conflict with Saudi announcements of moon sighting when Sharee witnesses come forward to Qazi on the evening of the Sharee 29th day. The Shariah does not permit the use of calculations to negate sighting claims. There are countless Fatawa to this effect.

(1- Click here for reference from Saudi Authorities about their Sharee position)

Scholars need to act responsibly and not take any opportunity to denounce pious Ulama of Saudi Arabia. This is Un-Islamic and goes against sharee etiquette.

There are many Fatawa including from **(2)** Shaikhul Islam Hazrat Maulana Husain Ahmed Madani RA, **(3)** Mufti Rashid Ahmed Ludhyanvi RA, **(4)** Mufti Mahmood Gangohi RA, **(5)** Molana Mossa Bazi RA all of whom have endorsed Saudi sighting as correct, on the path of Sunnah and permissible. In fact Hazrat Maulana Rashid Ahmed Gangohi RA together with **(6)** Fazil Bareli Maulana Ahmed Raza Khan Barelvi issued fatwa to perform Qadah of fast if the sighting in Saudi differed from India.

The Ulama in the UK also reached consensus and agreed an Ijmaee Fatwa to follow Saudi sightings on Sunday 28 December 1986 at a gathering of the Ulama and Muftiyane Kiram at Darul Uloom, Bury based on the Fatawa of Many Muftiyane Kiram to Follow Saudi Arabia.

(8) Click to see Hilal Judgment on Moonsighting P158 To P172) (9-HZ.Mufti A.Rahim Lajpuri RA)

Hazrat Mufti Rafi`e Uthmani HT, Grand Mufti of Pakistan, has very expressly ruled that despite the fact that many people feel uncomfortable about Saudi sighting claims it will be permissible to follow their announcements and it will not be proper to question Saudi decisions which appear to conflict with astronomical calculations. Similarly **(10-Click to see Fatwa)**

Hazrat Mufti Taqi Uthmani HT issued fatwa to follow Saudi Arabia.

(Click-11 Taqi Uthmani) (12-Thuboote Hilal)

It is not appropriate for scholars (and muftiyane kiram especially) that sensational statements like this are made without valid proof and without giving the relevant authorities a chance to reply.

(13- Click to see testimony of South African Aalime Deen who stayed in Saudi Arabia for 15 years who lived in Saudi Arabia)

(14- Maulana Nadvi) (15-Khalifah HZ. Shaikh Zakaria RA)

(17 - Click to see an example to decide Last day of Ramadan 1432 by the followers from Batley to the CMSC in relation to Saudi Arabia)

We would urge Scholars not to create dissension unnecessarily and for Muftiyane Kirams to scrutinise mischievous information they receive before making such judgements.

May Allah SWT give everyone hidayah to act responsibly. Ameen.

Y.A.Miftahi
(HGS of CMSC)

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NB: This article has only some refrances .If you want to see More please Click www.hizbululama.org.uk and choose the subject /Fatawa/Books, Articles and more.



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