



# **Central Moon Sighting Committee of Great Britain**

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

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3<sup>rd</sup> Shawwal 1432H/ 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011

## **The Astronomical Society Jeddah pledges never to interfere in the states Islamic affairs**

***The Grand Muftis of Saudi Arabia and Egypt have both confirmed that Eid Ul Fitr was correctly celebrated and urged people not to take any notice of rumors relating to the Shawwal moon sighting.***

*Sheikh Abdul Aziz Aale Sheikh the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia and head of the Grand Council of Scholars and Islamic Research and Ifta has confirmed that beginning and end of month of Ramadan, was absolutely correct without any doubt and condemned those sources spreading lies and rumors about Shawwal moon.*

*The Saudi Daily Okaz reported "the Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz Aael Sheikh has urged people to ignore the rumors being spread through electronic media and called such peoples as enemies of Islam and Shariah and he asked people not to believe those false statements being circulated regarding beginning and end of Ramadan.*

***The president of Astronomical department at the university of King Abdul Aziz, Doctor Hassan Basra has confirmed that there is no possibility of confusion or doubts between the differentiation of planet Saturn and Hilal (new moon) he added that first of all the size of a planet is much larger then new moon secondly those people who are responsible for moon sighting are pious and very reliable and possess deep knowledge which stems for more than 30 years.***

**Dr Basra from the Astronomical Society has rejected** the comments on various websites claiming possibilities of the moon sighters being confused between planet and crescent; **he called such comments as misleading and is made by a group of amateurs who have nothing to do with astronomy at all.**

*The Grand Mufti of Egypt Dr Ali Jumaa has been quoted in Egyptian newspaper "The Republic" that eight committees working under Darul Ifta has unanimously agreed on sighting of new moon and members of two committees has also confirmed seeing the moon with their naked eyes.*

***Dr Ali Jumaa has praised and fully supported the work carried out by members of Saudi Arabia and Egypt legal committees (Darul Ifta) and described these members as pious and God fearing who will never mislead the Muslim nation regarding matters of Shariah.***

**Dr Ashraf Fahmy and advisor to the Grand Mufti of Egypt and official for the department of sighting of crescent for the Hijra months have confirmed that moon for Eid Ul Fitr was 100% correct.**

*The members of two committees based in the towns of Toshka and Sohag has witnessed the sighting of new moon with their naked eyes.*

**He (Dr. Fahmy) further said** in a statement in 'Egyptian Daily Today': "The legal committees (Darul Ifta) checks very carefully that the accuracy of moon sighting every Hijra month is very carefully examined before making public announcement."

**The member of the Councils of Senior Scholars of Saudi Arabia Sheikh Abdullah bin Suleiman Al Manee** said to the newspaper "Al Hayat" in Saudi Arabia that **he has serious doubts about the findings of the Astronomical Society of Jeddah, since there is certainty of trustworthy witnesses who recorded their testimonies to specialists Shariah Court.**

The Astronomical Society statement confirms that the "New Moon went down a few minutes later than sunset". *The testimonies of pious and just men are correct and justifying; he pointed out that such information's which create doubts and mislead people are contrary to Shariah Law and should be rejected outright. Sheikh Al Manee has described announcement of new moon as absolutely correct and according to Shariah.*

**The consultant at the Royal Court Sheikh Abdul Mohsin Obeakin** clarifies that it is not right to question the start of month of Shawwal quoting the noble Hadith: "your fast is the day when you fast and your breaking of fast is when you break your fast and the day you offer sacrifice is the day when you sacrifice". *He said the beginning of each month depends upon the testimony of moon sighting witnesses.*

**The district judge of Samitah, Yasir Saleh bin Balawi** said in a statement that the belief of the astronomical society, "what is seen was planet Saturn", led to public discontent and irritation from this scandal in report and information which caused wide spread controversy among people. *It was contrary to the consensus of the trustworthy eye witnesses Scholars who registered their testimonies in Abu Zahrah.*

### **Statement of Astronomical Society**

Jeddah Astronomical society has announced that in future it will not participate in **monthly moon sighting as this is the responsibility of Darul Ifta concerning religious affairs**, in future the website of the astronomical society will only display findings of moon sighting committees which are authenticated by high court (Darul Ifta) of Saudi Kingdom.

<http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2011/09/01/164976.html>

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