

Was your Eid fake?

You may have received text messages and emails this weekend claiming that those who celebrated Eid-al-Fitr on Tuesday had done so incorrectly and must undertake an additional one-day fast. Even some so-called 'Muslim' Satellite TV Channels and their presenters have been spreading this and others have been busy sending messages to their contact lists.

EXAMPLES OF MESSAGES:

"To all u people who done eid with saudi hope you enjoyed your fake eid
<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9006110174>
Just read the heading that's all"

or

"Saudi government has admitted that there has been a MISTAKE about the CORRECT day of Eid-ul-Fitr this year (2011).....The Government gave order to people & citizens of Saudi Kingdom to Qaza Fasting of one day because Eid-ul-Fitr was supposed to be on Aug 31/2011, NOT Aug 30/2011.
www.qatarliving.com/node/2066944
Saudis get it wrong on Eid Ul Fitr
<http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9006110174>"

or

"We know this all along, that Saudi follows Ummul Qura – and the Hilal committees are just there to keep the "religious camps" happy..."

These messages are quoting a number of sources as their evidence. Fars News Agency and Qatar Living, a quick search on Google and Wikipedia tells us:

Fars News Agency (FNA) is a semi-official news agency in Iran. While it describes itself as "Iran's leading independent news agency",^[1] news organizations such as [CNN](#)^[2] and [Reuters](#)^[3] describe it as a "semi-official" news agency which has ties to the government. Source Wikipedia

Qatar Living - A user-driven online community about life in Qatar. **Qatar Living** features user submitted reviews, maps, and discussions. Source Google

What is immediately apparent is that neither of these two sources have any shred of credibility. How many times have you heard of **Fars News Agency** or **Qatar Living**. Do they ever appear on BBC or Al-Jazeera, or any other respected international news provider? The answer is a resounding no. For any responsible person to send a message which has these two sources as its evidence says a lot about their individual credibility as a responsible and reliable person. To exhort Muslims to base their Imaan on a report from news agency of the Shi'ite Republic of Iran (who have an obvious anti-Saudi, anti-Sunni agenda) and Qatar Living, a 'user-driven' community where anyone can post, reply and make a news page, is something which the sender should be well and truly ashamed of. Creating huge Fit'nah amongst innocent Muslims who have now spent a large part of their day trying to find out whether they really need to keep an additional fast, is shameful. The responsibility of having misguided countless Muslims now lies on the shoulders of these people and those who have broadcast similar messages. The fact that they need to vindicate their decision to fast on Eid-ul-Fitr

using these means is something for which they should ask forgiveness from Allah SWT and from the Muslim community.

Indeed, the allegations are so baffling and so completely childish, that some felt a response was not befitting. However, due to the request of so many responsible community leaders who were so angry about these nasty, pernicious and evil rumours, we felt it best to help ease community tension by publishing this statement before things seriously got out of hand.

Just ask yourself why would the Saudi government pay billions and admit a mistake over Eid-ul-Fitr? They have absolutely no control over Islamic affairs in the Kingdom. Let's look at what Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al-Asheikh said in his Friday sermon at Imam Turki bin Abdullah Mosque in Riyadh. He described those who doubted the moon sighting as motivated and deviated people with foul mouths,

"There are unjust pens and foul tongues that cast doubt on our religion which should be silenced. We strictly following the Sunnah of our Prophet in fasting and marking Eid days," he said, accusing the doubting astronomers of trying to impose their opinions on the nation. The mufti said the Shariah was clear in the procedures of moon sighting and added that Muslims would never give up the Sunnah for false opinions.

<http://arabnews.com/saudiarabia/article497239.ece>

(*Arab News* is an English-language daily newspaper published in [Saudi Arabia](#), in the cities of [Jeddah](#), [Riyadh](#), and [Dammam](#). Source: Wikipedia)

The words of the learned Sheikh are absolutely correct and describe the fit'nah in the right terms. We ask, why are the words of the Sheikh not quoted anywhere in these text messages. It seems the words of an Iranian government agency, and a Qatari internet forum carries more weight with some people!

Let's look at another report from Arab News,

Saudi Arabia will celebrate Eid Al-Fitr on Tuesday, after the moon sighting committee confirmed that the Shawwal crescent was sighted in two distinct areas of the Kingdom. The announcement of Eid was made by Culture and Information Minister Abdul Aziz Khoja in Saudi TV and he congratulated Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah, the royal family, citizens and residents.

<http://arabnews.com/saudiarabia/article495345.ece>

Also another report from Egypt also clarifies this,

Egypt's top religious authorities, Al-Azhar and Dar Al-Ifta, refuted these reports in a statement, saying that the crescent marking the start of Shawaal was sighted from a number of locations around Egypt.

It is "100 percent correct. The holy month of Ramadan was 29 days this year and Tuesday was the first day of Eid El-Fitr," the statement read.

The statement said every country is different in its crescent sighting, referring to doubts raised in Saudi Arabia. Some officials in Saudi dismissed the Saturn reports as untrue.

Egypt's National Institute for Astronomical and Geophysical Research in a statement by director Hatem Aouda said that the final say on crescent sighting of Shawwal is up to the religious authorities, pointing out that it is different in every country.

Dar Al-Ifta, the official body responsible for religious edicts including the announcement of Hijri months, has seven committees located across the country for the crescent sighting: in Helwan, Sixth of October City, Sohag, Toshka, Moqattam, Aswan and El-Wadi El-Gedid, where the crescent was observed with the naked eye.

<http://thedailynewsegypt.com/religion/shawwal-crescent-sighting-correct-despite-reports-says-dar-al-ifta.html>

It is a matter of concern that some innocent people will get trapped by the propaganda of people with an anti-Sunni and anti-Saudi agenda. They have NO CREDIBILITY, they are spreading FALSE RUMOURS and they need to be confronted. Their failure to end Ramadhan on Monday night and instead to fast on Eid-ul-Fitr (Nauzobillah) has put them under enormous pressure to justify their actions. The Muslim community demanded answers and as a result they have responded with childish text messages from Iranian websites and internet forums. What a total disgrace!

As a responsible organisation, we pledge that all our decisions and our actions will only be based on the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammed SAW. No amount of personal insults, nuisance calls or childish texts and emails will divert us from the Sirat-al-Mustaqeem. Our path is that of Rasullah SAW, who despite having the Jewish and Pagan communities around him using astronomical calculations, used only naked eye moon sighting for setting the Islamic calendar. Similarly the Saudi Ulama, who have full authority over all Islamic matters and are known for strictly implementing Shariah, have absolutely no reason to misguide Muslims. What is their benefit and what will they gain? It goes without saying that it is these same Ulama who have been criticised for strictly adhering to the Shari'ah of Rasullah by neo-conservatives, Shi'ah and others who all want to turn the Hij'aaz into a place of Bid'aah and Shirk. Does it make any logical sense that for moon sighting, these same Ulama-e-deen would choose to disregard Sunnah and follow astronomy and pre-calculated methods, whilst at the same time claiming otherwise? Please, let's be serious, this is a total fantasy!

Our message to the Muslim community in Britain is that if you fasted on Tuesday 30th August 2011, you must seek forgiveness from Allah SWT and pledge that in future you will not allow yourselves to be misguided by people spearheading an anti-Sunni and anti-Saudi agenda. It is very easy for people to forward text messages in the hope that pressure on them is relieved, but as Allah SWT gives us strength we will ensure that you continue to receive the Nas'iha of the practice of Rasullah SAW and we will never waver from this path.

You can help counter the evil that has been spread, by sending a simple text message to your contact list. We recommend something such as,

“ False texts being sent out about Eid, please ignore, true Eid was on Tuesday.
Please pass on to your contacts and ignore misleading info. For more info go to
hizbululama.org.uk ”

Additionally, please visit our website at hizbululama.org.uk where additional information can be downloaded.

We pray Allah SWT guides us all to the straight path and gives us the strength to hold on to the rope of Allah. **Ameen.**

By Hizbul Ulama UK (Central Moon Sighting Committee of Great Britain)

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