

## **BismillahirRahmanirRahim**

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3<sup>rd</sup> Muharram 1428  
23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007

Respected Movlana Yaqub Miftahi Saheb (D.B.) and other Members responsible for moonsighting in U.K.

Assalamualaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakaatuh

I commence this letter with the dua that may Allah keep you in the best of health and with Imaan.. As you are aware moonsighting has become an issue of great debate here in the U.K. With technology so much advanced it has become a near impossible task of answering to the masses outside, especially the young and educated that ‘just follow the Ulamaa’ on their moonsighting questions. People today have access to the internet, where a lot of moonsighting information is available. As you are aware the moonsighting criteria we are following now (Saudi criteria) is constantly under the spotlight, as it goes against all technology and logic. We have observed for years now that Saudi announces its moonsighting either before, or a few hours after the birth of the new moon, when the moon is not even on the horizon, which means it is impossible to see even with the best of telescopes, never mind the naked eye.

As far as today’s technology is concerned it is my belief, and I am certain the belief of a great number of Ulamaa that it is a gift/Nemat of Allah tala upon mankind, and we should use it to our benefit. We are using the observatory to determine Salah times e.g. sunset, sunrise etc. Some have based the whole salah timetable based on data received from the observatory.(timetables based on 15,17 or 18 degrees). Why can we not use the technology available to us as a ‘TOOL’ to **negate wrong and erroneous sightings** of the moon. Please take note of the word ‘tool’. Technology is used as a guide but **Sighting with the EYE would be essential**. I am sure that our holy Shariah permits us to do this and, I know for sure that many Ulamaa are of this opinion. Hazrat Ji Hazrat Movlana Inamul Hassan’s (RA) letter addressed to the shurah of the Dewsbury Markaz is pointing in the same direction.

For this month of Muharram we had obtained the data which I also posted on the Masjid notice board, it was used only as a guide, we went out to sight the moon on the 29<sup>th</sup> Zil Hijjah the moon being only 12+ hours old was not visible, hence we declared 30 days for the month. The next day the moon was on the horizon, and many of us witnessed the sighting, as it was nearly 36 hours old and the skies were clear.

This seems a very straight forward way/criteria and acceptable as far as our Holy Shariah is concerned, and as far as logic and commonsense is concerned. If you were to adopt this criteria I am sure everyone would come on board irrespective of their *Maslak* then we would no longer be a laughing stock amongst the people outside with numerous Eids etc..

We know that Saudi sighting is erroneous as you can judge yourself from the fatwas of Sheikhs Salih bin AlUthaimin and Yusuf AlQardawi given after declaration of Eid ul Fitr in the

year 1420 hijri. We all celebrated eid on the day following the Saudi announcement, yet it was the 30<sup>th</sup> day of Ramdhan ul Mubaarak as we can understand from the fatwaas I have sent you. there was a solar eclipse that day, and in the words of Sheikh AlUthimin' *If a person claims that the month began in the same night when an eclipse took place after sunset is like a person who claims that sun would rise before dawn, or a baby would show up before he gets out of the womb..*'. Mistakes were also made in the year 1412 AH in the months of Muharram and Rajab as you can see from the fatawas I have sent you. I am further sending you recent fatawas of Darul uloom Deoband,Saharanpur,and Dabhel as the fatawaas you have sent are old, many have been retracted and I personally feel the condition of the early 80's was totally different compared to the digital age we are living in today, when the world is on our fingertips.

Based on what I have written I sincerely appeal to yourselves and Jamiat ul Ulama that you reconsider your decision to follow the Saudi criteria and hold further consultations with senior Ulamaa in this country and Ulama aware of problems here from the outside. By criticizing each other or ignoring the problem altogether will not help the suffering masses outside.

We as leaders of our communities have responsibilities for which we will be questioned about on the day of Judgement, it will be a day that we have to answer to our Creator alone, and no one else. Keeping this in mind we should go forward and may Allah Tala help us,(AMEEN).

I also believe that to use the Hadith that, '*we are unlettered Ummah we do not write. We do not count*' as proof, not to use the help of the observatory, is a great injustice to our great Deen. As this Hadith was revealed for a specific incident. If we were to remain unlettered why did our beloved Nabi sallallahu alaihi wa sallam instruct the Sahabah to write the Holy Qur'aan? Why has Allah mentioned in surah al Baqarah verse number 282 '*When you contract a debt for a fixed period, write it down. Let a scribe write it..*'. Why have all these books of Ahaadith been written? What about the knowledge of Meerath which is dependent on numbers. the list would go on and on..

I sincerely hope that you will take into consideration the appeal from the heart of this humble servant of this great Deen of ours and reconsider the whole issue of moonsighting. Awaiting your reply I remain

Wassalam

Muhammad Shoyaib  
Imam Masjid e Umer

Note ; Copies of this letter have been sent to other Masajid and organisations