

Allegations against our Akaabir by Hizb ul Ulama answered:

We think it is about time that the Members of the Hizb ul Ulama led by Moulana Yaqub Ahmad Miftahi come to their senses and stop SLANDERING our Akaabir and Ulama as 'ON THE PATH OF THE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS'.

On page 14 of a newly published book titled '*The Shari,ah Moon Sighting, Salat times & Astronomical facts. By Yaqub Ahmad Miftahi*, there are some strong statements made with regards to Muslims following the ways of Jews & Christians and that Muslims will break the law of Allah Ta'aala by following their calendar!

BUT LET US FIND OUT WHO REALLY FOLLOWS THE JEWS AND CHRISTIAN CALENDAR:

Firstly let me ask you what is the Jewish method of establishing a new month? The answer is **that they follow the birth of the moon and not the naked eye sighting!**

Does the naked eye sighting take place before the birth of the moon, or is it the other way round that the birth of the moon takes places first, and then the sighting!

Obviously the naked eye sighting will take place after the birth of the moon and the birth of the moon is usually 18 hours prior to the naked eye sighting!

Another important point is that by following Morocco or South Africa we are always commencing our month a day or two days after the Saudi Arabian announcement.

So if we assume Saudi is doing the naked eye sighting then we should be ahead of them by at least one day if we are following the Jewish or Christian method of determining the month on the birth of the moon!

It is quite evident from this that we are not following the ways of Jews and Christians; otherwise we would have been ahead of Saudi by at least one day!

We are all aware that Saudi Arabia in months other than Ibaadaat follows the Umm ul Qura calendar as was evident with the recent announcement of Sha'baan. This calendar is based on the BIRTH OF THE MOON. I will leave it to the individual to decide who follows what but...

I can say with confidence based on the above fact that the "naked eye sighting takes place after the birth of the moon" AND it is Saudi who follow the new moon theory, that is why the naked eye sighting reports from Morocco, South Africa & the rest of the world are always a day later!

Anyhow just to prove that Wifaq ul Ulama are **NOT** following the Jewish calendar, let us compare the Hizbul Ulama and Wifaq's calendars against the Jewish calendar (chabad.org - Orthodox Jewish website). Atleast those people who really want to know the truth can form their own judgement on who are closer to the Jewish calendar:

• Month	Jewish Date	Hizbul Ulama Date	Wifaqul Ulama Date
• 1st Dhul Qa'dah 1429	Cheshvan 5769	Same	1 day difference
• 1st Dhul Hijjah 1429	Kislev 5769	1 day difference	1 day difference
• 1st Muharram 1430	Tevet 5769	Same	1 day difference
• 1st Safar 1430	Shvat 5769	1 day difference	2 days difference
• 1st Rabi' Al-Awwal 1430	Adar 5769	1 day difference	2 days difference
• 1st Rabi' Ath Thani 1430	Nissan 5769	2 days difference	2 days difference
• 1st Jumadal Ula 1430	Iyar 5769	1 day difference	2 days difference
• 1st Jumadath Thaniyah 1430	Sivan 5769	1 day difference	2 days difference
• 1st Rajab 1430	Tammuz 5769	1 day difference	1 day difference
• 1st Sha'ban 1430	Av 5769	1 day difference	2 days difference

Our simple message to the Moulana Yaqub Miftahi and the CMC is that the criteria/policy that they adopted twenty plus years ago is now OUT OF DATE.

In the same way that Saudi Arabia and their Ulama have revised their criteria and position, and moved on with a more cautious approach, the CMC need to follow their Muqtada and revise their criteria, for their sake and for the sake of the people that follow their decisions in the UK.

Check the links:

<http://www.alwatan.com.sa/NEWS/WriterSave.asp?issueno=3254&id=13923>

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.con&contentid=2009081847079>

Now let me quote the Akaabireen Ummat who permitted the use of Astronomy for negating false and erroneous sightings.

- Allamah Sayyad Muhammad Aloosi Baghdadi RA writes: 'I have researched many modern astronomical principles; they are not against the Nusoos of the Qur'aan and Sunnah. Ma'ariful Qur'aan Volume 6 Page 480
- Allamah Taqiuddin Subki RA writes: 'It is necessary for the Qadhi to acquire the knowledge of astronomy in order that he can judge the testimonies of the sighting of Hilal correctly. If he himself is not familiar with this knowledge, then he must remain in contact with an expert in Astronomy, in order that he can judge the testimonies of sighting the moon correctly.' This is what Allamah Jowhari Tantawi has written as well. Al Ilm ul Manshoor Page 26, Islami Maah Awr Ruyat e Hilal Shariat Awr Ilm Falakiyaat Kee Roshnee Mai. Page 39
- Hadhrat Mufti Sayed Abdur Raheem Lajpuri RA writes: 'Efforts will be made to sight the moon according to geographical possibilities.' He further writes: 'The method adopted to sight the moon will be in accordance with the Sunnat e Nabawiyah. Fataawaa Rahimiyah Volume 9 Page 417
- Mufti Nizamuddin, Mufti e Aazam and Muhaddith of Darul Uloom Deoband, writes: 'If a man testifies that he has sighted the crescent before the Waqth al-Iqthiran (New Moon conjunction time), then his testimony must be rejected, as it is against logic and observation. Conjunction occurs before the moon is present in the sky, so the new moon

cannot be sighted, and if this testimony was to be accepted then it would be against the Hadith.’ “The month is...” Mas’alah Ru’yat e Hilal awr Islami Maah Page 199

- Allamah Subki R.A.(756 AH) states: ‘...if the experts in astronomy clearly and unambiguously state that there is no possibility of sighting the crescent then the testimony (of those who claim to have seen it) must be rejected as they have erred or are lying...’ Fataawa As Subki Vol 1 Page 209
- This was also the view of the Famous Taabi’ee Mutarrif Ibn Abdullah RA. Commentary of Sahih Muslim-Al Minhaaj Volume 1 Page 347
- Hadhratjee Moulana Inaam ul Hassan Saheb RA wrote in a letter addressed to the Dewsbury Tablighi Markaz Shooraa: ‘When claims of moon sighting are made before there is the slightest possibility of sighting, no credit should be given to these claims and this position is in accordance with the actions of Jamhoor/majority Ulama.
- The resolution passed by the Fiqh Academy based at Jeddah, documented by Mufti Muhammad Taqi Uthmaani Saheb: ‘For the month to be declared, actual sighting is necessary, but help can be taken from astronomical calculations and observatories. This ensures that the Hadith is acted upon and the scientific facts are also considered.’ Sharee Faislay Page 95
- Hadhrat Moulana Yusuf Ludhyaanwi RA writes: ‘The commencement of the lunar months is dependent upon the sighting of the moon. One can take help from the astronomers as to whether there is a possibility of sighting or not’. Aap ke Masaail Awr un ka hal Volume 3 Page 261
- Hadhrat Moulana Mufti Muhammad Taqi Uthmaani Saheb writes: ‘Apart from the Saudi Ulama, it is the view of the Ulama of this era, that if a testimony is given when sighting the moon is not logically possible, then that testimony is suspicious. On the basis of suspicion, this testimony cannot be acceptable, and a judgement should not be made based on this suspicious testimony’. In another Fatwa he has countersigned, it states: ‘Our opinion is that not every testimony is conclusive (Qat’ee), there is the possibility of error. Astronomical calculations are conclusive, whereas there could be an error in the deductions made in their testimony. Hence if the testimony is against the opinion of expert astronomers, it should be rejected.’
- Hadhrat Moulana Burhanuddin Sanbhli RA writes: ‘One should take into consideration that in addition to simplicity and the natural way, Islam also embraces logic and reason. The famous Maaliki scholar Allamah Abu Ishaq Shaatbi RA has written in al Muwaafaqaat: ‘Anything that is contrary to the principles of Shariah or reason and logic is not to be acted upon’. Based on this, it is not against the Holy Shariah to reject those decisions, which are impossible and Mahaal, and which go against clear logic and intelligence. The astronomers say that calculations regarding the orbit of the Sun and Moon are conclusive. This is supported by Qur’aanic evidence as well. (‘The sun and the moon rotate on an exactly computed course’ Surah 55, verse 5). Hence it would not be wrong to say that if a claim of sighting was made when it was logically impossible to sight it, then the claimant has erred. Mowjoodah Zamaanay Ka Shar’ee Hal Page 76,77,78

- The world renowned Muballigh Hadhrat Moulana Muhammad Umar Palanpuri Saheb has written: “It has come to my mind that if only a book was written, which was easy to understand, in which the information was given for every month, regarding Imkan e Ru’yah, the times of conjunction, new moon times for each and every country of the World. Then, this information is passed on to the people responsible for deciding and announcing the sighting of the moon, in order that those who are responsible become aware that, if on any day there was no possibility of sighting (Imkan e Ru’yah), they remain very careful and cautious in accepting a claim of Sighting”.
- The late Hadhrat Moulana made a lot of effort in this field, he had in his possession a record of times of Imkan Ru’yah, and this has been mentioned in a letter he wrote to Dr Muhammad Ilyas the renowned expert Astronomer of Malaysia. In the letter he wrote; “ I wish that a small book be written in which there is a record of new moon times for the next SIXTY YEARS, which is WHAT I HAVE, this record is there, plus an article from Moulana Burhanuddin Sanbhli. With this you should compose some simple rules, which tell us, at what age is the moon visible and how long after sunset will the moon be visible. Also write what differences could occur with the difference in longitude and latitude, and how weather could affect it. Biography of Moulana Muhammad Umar RA Pages 212-214
- The knowledge of astronomy could be used to negate false and impossible sightings. Tuhfatul Alma’ee. Vol 3 Pg 57 written by Sheikh ul Hadith of Darul Uloom Deoband Moulana Saeed Ahmad Palanpuri Saheb
- And finally let me quote the very Ulama whose decisions the Central Moonsighting Committee led by Moulana Yaqub Miftahi are following; in a report in the Saudi Gazette which could be accessed through this link: <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.con&contentid=2009081847079> the REVISED Saudi Moonsighting committee position is clearly mentioned, that observatory/knowledge of Astronomy WILL be used to NEGATE FALSE AND ERRONEOUS SIGHTING. Below is part of the Saudi Supreme court announcement:

Member of the Senior Board of Ulema Abdul Mohsen Al-Obeikan, meanwhile, has said that crescent sightings will only be accepted if **“consistent with the official sighting committee and observatories, to avoid mistakes.”**

Al-Obeikan said that crescent sighting rules as laid down by the Council of Ministers and the Shoura Council should be followed, **adding that it is not possible for the naked eye to sight the crescent if advanced observatories cannot.**

“The main problem is the acceptance of witness testimony that is not confirmed by observatory detection,” Al-Obeikan said on Sunday, adding that some people might falsely or erroneously claim to have sighted the crescent. **“Dependence on observatories is no longer an issue as it has been permitted by the Senior Ulema,”** Al-Obeikan said.

SPA/Okaz/SG.

I am sure that everyone will agree that all these Ulama /Akaabir are much more knowledgeable than Moulana Yaqub Miftahi. Their piety and knowledge are renowned and accepted throughout the world.

Can anyone in their RIGHT MIND ACCEPT that these great Ulama/Akaabir are, or were on the PATH OF THE JEWS AND CHRISTIANS?

This is what Moulana Yaqub Miftahi is claiming in his books and these allegations regularly appear in his monthly newsletters, which many masjid without being aware of this grave slander/tuhmat against our Akabir and Ulama, are displaying.

Now, that the very country that Moulana Yaqub Miftahi and his group follow has decided to take the help of the observatory and astronomers, will he direct the same allegation to the Ulama of Saudia?

And more importantly, if Moulana Miftahi and CMC position still is: ‘We cannot use Astronomy, even as help’; which country will they now follow?

AND... please for the sake of one’s Aakhirah REFRAIN from KUFR, YAHOOD AND NASAARAA ALLEGATIONS that has become a part of everything that Moulana Miftahi writes.

Trustees and committee members for the sake of your Aakhirah do not dirty and blacken the walls of the HOUSE OF ALLAH with these unfounded allegations and TUHMAT against our Ulama and Akaabir. OTHERWISE your HUSNE KHATIMAH is in grave danger. We must not help people in sin and transgression; rather our position should be to help in matters of good and piety.

We repeat that our stance has always been to guide and direct people on the right path, we do not want innocent people deceived to celebrate Ramadhan in Sha’baan, And Eid ul Fitr in Ramadhan, our efforts have been so far directed on this sole issue, we have on many occasions been happy to meet with the CMC in order to come up with an acceptable solution in line with our Holy Shariah, but unfortunately to date the request of a meeting/discussion has always been rejected. This invitation to this day stands.

Another misconception we have to clear is; why go to a Kufr country like South Africa for a testimony on the Hilal? The truth is we are not following a Kufr country, rather we are receiving reliable News of actual sighting from a body of renowned Ulama e Kiram who have made a great effort in making sure that the testimonies they receive are in line with the principles laid by our Holy Shariah. We must also add that the Hilal testimonies received are also in accordance with the advanced technology of this era. They are not impossible or *Mahal* sightings.

Wa Ma Alainaa Illal Balagh.