



The research of the Ulama of Turkey as regards to the declaration by Saudi Arabia of Eid ul Fitr 1399AH

A translation of a Report on Saudi Sighting by the Ulama of Turkey, extracted from Islami Maah and Ru'yat e hilal, pg 95,96,97,98. Author: Moulana Yaqub Kavi Qasmi Saheb DB

The head of the religious department of the Republic of Turkey, Tayyar Aalati Qowlaj writes in his report:

Our five member delegation reached Jeddah Saudi Arabia on the 16th of August 1979, which was the Ramadhan of 1399AH, with the intention of researching the way Saudi Arabia declared their Moonsighting decisions.

The delegation met with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Baz on the 21st of August 11-00 in the morning. At that time there were a lot people around the Sheikh. The delegation pointing out the reason of their journey requested for a specific time with the Sheikh. This request was accepted and 10-00 AM, the next morning was the time given. I asked the Sheikh if he received my correspondence as regards to this issue which I had sent twenty days before our journey, he replied; "no, but I will try to find out tonight". The delegation had hoped that other Saudi Ulama would be present at the time of the meeting with the Sheikh.

The delegation met with the Sheikh the next day at the specified time, but apart from one youth, no other Ulama were present, the Sheikh acknowledged the receipt of my correspondence, saying that "this is with the Towfeeq (will) of Allah, and a great service to Islam".

As the representative of the delegation I requested the Sheikh that tonight in order to sight the Hilal/moon, if the Sheikh could delegate his trusted Ulama or people with us, so we could go to the mountain of Shifaa or Huda to attempt the sighting of the Hilal of Eid ul Fitr. The sheikh in reply to this said; "there is no need for this, upon receiving the news, the Government will make the announcement". No attention was given to our request. The response of Sheikh Bin Baz disappointed us, but in order to further the issue, I said that we Ulama are responsible of the fasts and the Eid of the people. Pointing out those problems attached with doubtful testimonies of two witnesses, and to declare Ramadhan and Eid on suspicious testimonies. I also pointed out issue as regards to conjunction, and Astronomy, but unfortunately the sheikh did not pay any attention to our feelings and disappointment, and he said "the scholars of Astronomy are Fasiq, no attention will be paid to their views". He further said that "to celebrate Eid and Ramadhan on one day throughout the world is not necessary rather every country should do their own sighting". Anyhow the Sheikh was not prepared to delegate any of his people with us to attempt sighting, hence we departed from his company disappointed.

The delegation of Turkey reached Taif on the 22nd August 1979, so that they can climb the mountain of Shifa, which was thirty Kilometres from Taif, this mountain is the highest in Saudi Arabia. There was an expert Astronomer in our delegation by the name of Arif Jowkloo, he had thirty years experience in this field. We tried with binoculars etc to sight the moon but we were unsuccessful, as in reality the moon had set twenty minutes before the sun.



The government of Saudia on that night (22nd August) announced that due to testimonies of two witnesses the next day will be Eid ul Fitr, and in celebration fireworks were let off. The reality was that this announcement of Eid was in accordance to the American Navy, after the time of conjunction. (Meaning that the claim of sighting was after conjunction, which is an impossible sighting, against the Qur'aanic instruction aswell, see Surah Ash Shams verse 2. Translator.)

The people of Saudia celebrated Eid according to the announcement whereas we, the delegation continued with our fast, as we were not happy with the decision. On the 23rd of August we returned to the Mount Shifa to attempt sighting on the 23rd, this time we had two other people aswell, Engineer Khaleel Torden and Abu Zaruse Qudrat, we all attempted sighting but we did not observe any signs of the moon on the horizon (even on the 23rd!).

If on the 22nd, the sighting of the two Saudi's was correct then today on the 23rd August the moon would be on the horizon much longer and would be much greater in size and clearer.

The second major factor/evidence of the sighting on the 22nd August to be incorrect is the fact there was a solar eclipse on that day which was witnessed by many cities in America. **And sighting of the moon on an occasion of solar eclipse is impossible.** This solar eclipse was witnessed by millions, hence how can testimonies of two unidentified individuals of an impossible sighting be acceptable?

This report is from 1399AH, and then we had the report of Salman Zafar Sheikh of America of March, 2000 available on:

<http://www.ummah.net/moonsighting/articles/report.htm>,

Now we have the report of Brother Abdul Aziz Raje- 2009 available at:

http://www.wifaqululama.co.uk/articlespdf/Makkah_Hilal_Eid_UI_Fitr2009.pdf,

all reports from then till today suggest that Saudi Arabia has taken a very negligent approach to the issue of Moonsighting, the decisions coming out are many a times impossible, hence the reason for many of our concerned Ulama to move away from the suspicious sighting declarations of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to declarations based on local and actual sighting. This is the cautious and correct approach.