

Central Hilal Committee of North America

اللجنة المركزية لروية الهلال في أمريكا الشمالية



Central Hilal Committee of North America Statement on the Shawwal 1446 AH Moonsighting Announcement

لا تصوموا حتى تروا الهلال ولا تفطروا حتى تروه فان غم عليكم فأكملوا العدة ثلاثين

رواه البخاري ١٩٠٦ / المسلم ١٠٨٠

"Do not fast until you sight the crescent, and do not break your fast until you sight it. If it is obscured from you, then complete thirty days" (Bukhari 1906, Muslim 1080)

The Central Hilal Committee (CHC) made its unanimous decision after extensive discussions and a major coordinated moonsighting effort across the United States.

In our Deen, the foundational principle is that a lunar month consists of 30 days unless a valid Shar'i Shahadah confirms its conclusion on the 29th day.

Dedicated observers attempted to sight the crescent moon in various regions, including the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, West, and Northwest. In some locations, over 70 individuals gathered in a single area, while nationwide, more than 2,000 observers across 27 states participated in the effort. These groups ranged from small teams of three to four people to larger gatherings exceeding 100 participants, all striving to uphold this Sunnah and fulfill the Fardh Kifayah of moonsighting.

With the exception of Oregon and Arizona, most locations across the country reported cloudy or partly cloudy conditions. Subcommittees from all regions unanimously reported negative sightings. Despite the use of binoculars, telescopes, and even visits to observatories, no verifiable sighting was confirmed.

In areas with a higher probability of sighting, such as California and Seattle, multiple groups went out with their families to revive this Sunnah, yet all reported negative results. Given these reports, and in adherence to the hadith, "If it is obscured from you, then complete thirty days", CHC determined that Ramadan would complete 30 days, so that no obligatory fast was missed. Based on the Shar'i verification of the CHC, it is necessary to complete thirty days.

Central Hilal Committee of North America

اللجنة المركزية لروية الهلال في أمريكا الشمالية



Rasulullah ﷺ has mentioned,

من أفطر يوماً من رمضان من غير رخصة ولا مرض لم يقض عنه صوم الدهر كله وإن صامه
رواه الترمذي و أحمد والبخاري تعليقا وأبو داود و النسائي في الكبرى و ابن ماجه

“Whoever breaks a fast on a day of Ramadan without a valid excuse or illness, even if he were to fast for a lifetime, it would not make up for it.” (Tirmizi, Ahmad, al-Bukhari, Abu Dawud, al-Nas’ai, Ibn Majah)

Regarding reports from other countries, it was noted that some committees accepted sightings from Nigeria and Gambia. Besides CHC's regional horizon criteria (matla', an important Fiqhi matter), it is important to consider that Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Libya and all neighboring countries, which are geographically close to these regions, officially announced the completion of 30 days because the moon was not sighted.

Furthermore, had the crescent been visible in Africa, it would have been sighted in the western hemisphere as well, including North America, given the natural progression of moon visibility. In addition to this, even those using optical aids in the U.S. failed to sight the moon. Thus, CHC found these foreign reports unreliable and did not consider them valid.

We ask Allah to accept the efforts of all those who sought to revive this Sunnah and to unite the Ummah upon the correct way of moonsighting as established by the Qur'an and Sunnah. May He grant us sincerity, steadfastness, and unity in following His commands and the noble teachings of Rasulullah ﷺ.

اللَّهُمَّ أرنا الحق حقا وارزقنا اتباعه وأرنا الباطل باطلا وارزقنا اجتنابه

Central Hilal Committee of North America