

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee-Japan

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The Majma Al-Fiqh Al-Islami – Rabitah Al-Alam Al-Islami

Makkah Al-Mukarramah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Brakatuhu

We are sending you a details note about Hilal (new moon) sighting in Japan. Your confirmation will be very helpful to remove some confusion from the minds of some Muslims in Japan.

On behalf of Muslims of Japan we express our thanks to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud Hafizahullah, and Muhammad bin Naif bin Abdulaziz Al Saud the Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior of Saudi Arabia, and Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud the deputy Crown Prince, second deputy Prime Minister and Minister of defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the government and the people of Saudi Arabia and Rabitah Al-Alam Al-Islami for their services to Islam all over the world and specially for Japan.

The Muslims of Japan are in regular contact with Saudi Arabia. In case of any problem we contact Saudi Arabian Ulama and in particular we contact The Majma Al-Fiqh Al-Islami – Rabitah Al-Alam Al-Islami, Makkah Al-Mukarramah for solutions and guidance.

Now we have a problem for your opinion:

Muslims in Japan decide about Hilal (new moon) ever since early days the Muslims and Masajid exist in Japan. Al-Hamduli Allah, now in Japan there is a Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee-Japan which decides the sighting of Hilal (new moon).

In the year 1984 Samahatu Al-Shaikh Abdul Aziz bin Baz (r.h.) was contacted by us and he gave a Fatwa that the Muslims of Japan should do their own sighting of Hilal (new moon) and decide start of new month accordingly. If Hilal (new moon) is not sighted they should follow the closest Muslim country.

Muslims of Japan used to try to see Hilal (new moon) and in case of not sighting in Japan, they followed Malaysia. At the time of this Fatwa Malaysia used to follow for Ramadhan Al-Mubarak and Eidul Fitr the sighting in Malaysia but for Eidul Adha they followed Saudi Arabia. Muslims in Japan used to do the same. But later on, Malaysia decided to follow their own sight also for Eidul Adha. This means that Eidul Adha in Malaysia was some time with Saudi Arabia and some time not. In case when date of Eidul Adha in Malaysia was different from that in Saudi Arabia, Samahatu Al-Shaikh Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz bin Baz (r.h.) issued the same Fatwa and confirmed that Muslims of Japan are not required to follow Saudi Arabia.

Allamah Muhammad Taqi Uthmani (of Pakistan) was also contacted. He advised that one principle should be adopted in all cases. If Malaysia is followed for Ramadhan Al-Mubarak and Eidul Fitr then also Malaysia is to be followed for Eidul Adha, no need to follow Saudi Arabia for Eidul Adha date in Japan.

Same question was put to Samahatu Al-Shaikh Abdullah bin Assubial (r.h.) Imam Al-Masjid Al-Haram. He also confirmed the Fatwa of Samahatu Al-Shaikh Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz bin Baz (r.h.) “Muslims in Japan should try to sight the Hilal (new moon). If it is seen than follow the sighting, if not seen then follow the nearest Muslim country Malaysia”.

Our current practice about Hilal (new moon) sighting is given below:

Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee-Japan contacts Muslims all over Japan and the Muslims of Japan go to high rise buildings and towers and try their best to see the Hilal (new moon). But till now Hilal (new moon) has never been seen on end of month. Of course the moon of second and third day is visible. This is also confirmed by those people living in Japan for 40 years and have managed moon sighting matter in early days.

Now in Japan we contact Muslims all over Japan. But unfortunately due to cloudy weather at sun set time, the Hilal (new moon) for the new month is never seen.

Ruyat-e-Hiala Committee-Japan holds a meeting on 29th Shaban, 29th of Ramadhan Al-Mubarak and 29th of Zulqadah, after collection news from all over Japan. If no Hilal (new moon) is sighted in Japan, we contact Malaysia Hilal Authority and decide Hilal (new moon) and follow Malaysia sighting.

In Malaysia 1st Ramadhan Al-Mubarak, Eidul Fitr and Eidul Adha dates are declared after authentic seal of the chief Ruler (King) of Malaysia. Other months are decided by Malaysia Hilal Authority. Our Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee-Japan receives the copy of official decision from Malaysia that they have made the decision after they get information from 29 designated places. (Copy attached for kind information).

Malaysia is also followed by Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei for Hijrah months.

Ruyat-e-Hialal Committee-Japan Meetings are attended by representatives of Masajids, Musalla, Islamic organizations and Centers for all over Japan. All the Masajids and Islamic organizations and Centers are its member. It has a SHURA of 18 members and after every three (3) years elections for office bears are held. Al-hamdo li Allah decisions of our Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee-Japan is followed all over Japan. However Tokyo Masjid continues to announce according to

calculations in Turkey. We have no problems with them. Arabic Islamic Institute of Imam Muhammad Bin Saud Islamic University follows our system.

There is some confusion in the minds of some Muslims, as given below:

- Some Muslims have a confusion that no Hilal (new moon) sighting is done in Malaysia, they only follow calculations. But upon our enquiry Malaysia Hilal Authority explained that: In Malaysia 1st Ramadhan Al-Mubarak, Eidul Fitr and Eidul Adha dates are declared under seal of the chief Ruler (King) of Malaysia. Other months are decided by Malaysia Hilal Authority. More over our representative of Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee-Japan Dr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi personally participated in a group of Hilal (new moon) sighting in Kualalumpur, Malaysia. (Please see the photo).
- Some Muslims say we can accept Malaysia Hilal (new moon) decision for Ramadhan Al-Mubarak and Eidul Fitr but for Eidul Adha we have to follow Saudi Arabia, because Eidul Adha is the day after Arafah which is decided by Saudi Arabia.
- Some other Muslims say that Malaysia is not the closest Muslim country; they say it is Bangladesh and Pakistan. But as we know that Japan time is only one hour advance from Malaysia, Bangladesh is 3 hours; Pakistan is 4 hours and Saudi Arabia 6 hours advance from Japan. We know that in Bangladesh and Pakistan as in some other Muslim countries there are disputes about the dates of Ramadhan Al-Mubarak, Eidul Fitr and Eidul Adha. Some Muslims in those countries follow Saudi Arabia while others follow their own Hilal (new moon) sighting. Same is in U.S.A., Canada and Europe.
- In Japan there is a Government Department called (TEMMONDAI) Metrological department. From its home page it can be found when the Hilal (new moon) will rise and when it will set. They calculate minute by minute. But this is calculation of Japan. In this system the rise of moon is accepted even if the moon sets before sun set. But in

Islam only that Hilal (new moon) is accepted which continues to exist even after sunset.

- Some time when we follow Hilal (new moon) sighting of the nearest Muslim country, the (TEMMONDAI) Metrological department in Japan official informed that Hilal (new moon) appeared, but they show that Hilal (new moon) set happened few minutes before sun set, which is Islamically not acceptable. We are following the nearest Muslim country Malaysia, not calculation.
- Now the problem is to know exactly how long or how many minutes the Hilal (new moon) has to stay unset after sun set to be accepted as Hilal (new moon) in Islam.

Request:

After giving you all these details about Hialal (new moon) sighting system adopted by Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee-Japan, we request you your opinion on the following two points:

- If in your opinion Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee-Japan current practice in Japan is according to Sharia Islamiyah, please confirm and oblige.
- In case you suggest some other system, please let us know in writing so that we may inform others and follow it in Japan.

An early reply from you will satisfy the Muslim Community in Japan.

Jazakallahu Khairal Jaza.

Thanks, with best Salam.

Your sincerely,

Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee-Japan

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