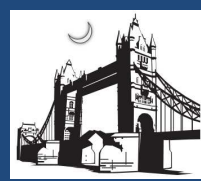




# Islamic Crescent Observation for the UK

## المراقبة الإسلامية للأهلة في المملكة المتحدة

إحياء السنة النبوية في رؤية الهلال - Reviving the Sunnah of Moon Sighting



## When is Eid-ul Adha 1434 AH



**Report by Qamar Uddin (York):** It is a well-known fact that the Islamic lunar months start with the first sighting of the crescent moon (Hilal) and the duration of the months are either 29 or 30 days. Since, our obligatory worships (Ibadah) such as Ramadan/Eids are dependent on the first sighting of the Hilal, it is most important for Muslims all over the country to try sighting the Hilal in all 12 months of the year to avoid accumulating any mistakes or doubts. It is a *Sunnah* of Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam*) to look for the Hilal on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of each month after sunset.

Alhamdulillah (all praise be to Allah), the Islamic Crescent Observation for the UK (ICOUK) volunteer group regularly attempt to sight the Hilal on the UK horizon in all 12 months of the year and also collect reliable/verified observation reports from other countries in the east of UK/Morocco. These reports are made available to the Muslim Scholars (Ulama) in the UK to make rapid decisions based on actual human eye sightings to fully comply with the Shariah.

Accordingly, on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (29<sup>th</sup> Shawwal 1434 AH) many people from the UK have attempted to sight the crescent moon (Hilal) of Dhul Qaidah after sunset. None of the groups were able to sight the Hilal as most places had cloudy sky conditions. However, we had received reliable sighting report (*Muhaqqaq-Ruyat-Basari*) from the Jamiat-e-Ulama South Africa of a positive sighting. Therefore, the UK Ulama had decided that the month of Shawwal 1434 AH would have 29-days and the month of Dhul Qaidah 1434 AH was to start from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013, which was also the same date as the Saudi Ummul Qura calendar (by coincident).

Therefore, 29<sup>th</sup> Dhul Qaidah 1434 AH will be on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013 when we will be looking for the Hilal of Dhul Hijjah after sunset as per the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam*). If reliable/verified sighting reports were received from either the UK or any countries in the east of the UK/Morocco then 1<sup>st</sup> Dhul Hijjah 1434 AH may start from Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013, otherwise it will start from the next day (Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013), Insha-Allah.

### Eid-ul Adha Prediction

From a scientific point of view, the Hilal of Dhul Hijjah 1434 AH will not be possible to be sighted anywhere in the UK or in the east of the UK/Morocco on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013 (after sunset) and hence the month of Dhul Qaidah 1434 AH is likely to complete 30 days. The Dhul Hijjah moon will be born on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at 0:34 GMT (New Moon Conjunction). It will be under 17 hours old at London sunset, but will set with the sun, hence it will not be possible to be sighted anywhere in the UK. In Makkah, the moon will be 14.5 hours old and it will set 15 minutes after the sun. However, it will not be possible to be sighted after Makkah sunset, as the moon will be too close to the horizon (2 deg altitude) and too close to the sun (8 deg elongation). Also, the phase of the moon will be so thin (0.4% illuminated) that it will be beyond the resolution of the human eye to detect it!

The predicted crescent visibility map for Dhul Hijjah 1434 AH [see Fig. 1] clearly shows that the moon will not be possible to be sighted anywhere in the UK or the east of UK/Morocco on the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013. The red shaded area on the top of the visibility map shows the moon will set before the sunset. There is a

*“Eid-ul Adha 1434 in the UK is most likely to be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013, Insha-Allah”*

good possibility that it might be sighted in South America if the weather was perfect, it will not be considered in the UK to avoid undue hardships, since any reliable sightings reports may not arrive in the UK until the next morning. Furthermore, it is a rule of Fiqh (Jurisprudence) that all months must start on the same basis after sunset, without any exceptions! Therefore, 1<sup>st</sup> Dhul Hijjah 1434 AH in the UK is most likely to be on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2013 and hence Eid-ul Adha will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 Insha-Allah.

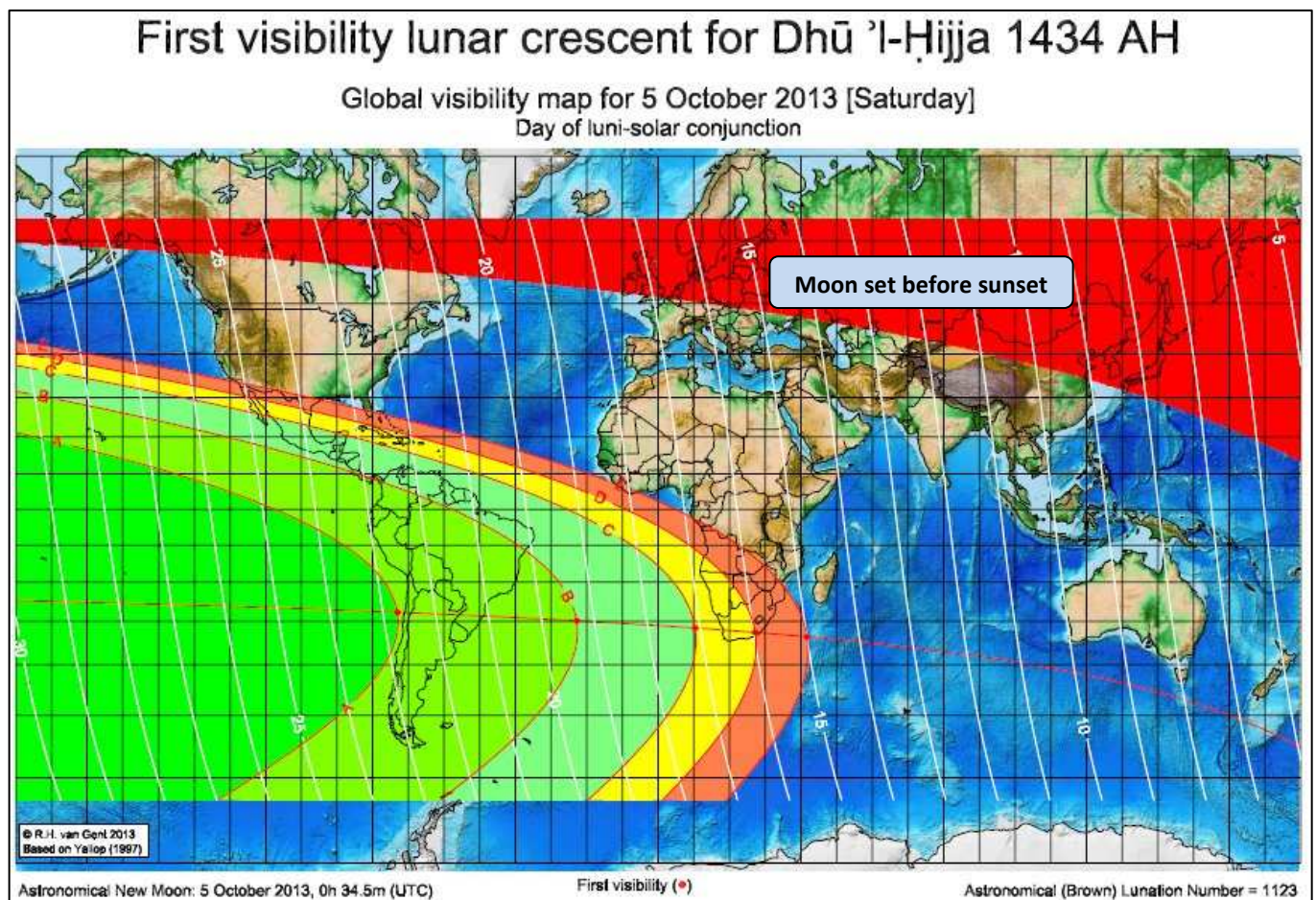


Fig.1 Visibility Map for Dhul Hijjah 1434 AH

### Is Eid connected with Hajj

It should be pointed out that for those who live in (or are visiting) Saudi Arabia, only their date of Eid-ul Adha is on the next day after Hajj. The day of Hajj/Arafah is on 9<sup>th</sup> Dhul-Hijjah, as decided by the Saudi Justice Department in Riyadh. According to the advice given by many eminent scholars, such as Mufti Taqi Uthmani (Pakistan) and Shaykh Saleh Ibn Uthaimen (Saudi Arabia), all those who live outside Saudi Arabia, such as in Europe/USA, should follow the lunar calendar of their own country (which may be different from that of Saudi Arabia). This advice is consistent with the noble practice of Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam*) when he started celebrating Eid-ul Fitr and Eid-ul Adha from 2 AH, well before Hajj becoming obligatory in 9 AH. During the lifetimes of the Khulafa-e-Rashideen and Sahabah (*Radhi Allahu Anhum*), Islam had spread to many foreign regions and all those Muslims were reported to have celebrated Eid-ul Adha by sighting of the moon in their own region and not with Hajj or the sighting of the moon in Makkah. They all considered local moon sighting as the rule of the Shariah (e.g. see *Kuraib* Hadith in Sahih Muslim).

According to the Muslim historians, the Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam*) performed his one and only Hajj on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Dhul-Hijjah 10 AH in Makkah and passed away on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Rabiul Awwal 11 AH in Madinah (i.e. 3 months after his Hajj). This means, the Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam*) celebrated Eid-ul Adha in Madinah without having any possible connection with the day of Arafah/Hajj in Makkah for over 7 years. Also, from these dates and the fact that a month has either 29 or 30 days, it can be proven that the calendar of Makkah was different from the calendar of Madinah, even though a horse rider could have conveyed the Hilal news from Makkah to Madinah within a day (24 hours).

Furthermore, many of the Sahabah (*Radhi Allahu Anhum*) who subsequently relocated to foreign countries outside Saudi Arabia and the later Muslims over past 1400 years of Islamic history, have never tried to connect/synchronise their day of Eid-ul Adha with the day of Hajj in Makkah. They all celebrated Eid-ul Adha on 10<sup>th</sup> Dhul Hijjah and kept the fast on the “Day of Arafat” on 9<sup>th</sup> Dhul-Hijjah with the sighting of the moon on their local horizons. Therefore, it must be understood that to connect or synchronise Eid-ul Adha in the UK (or Europe/USA) with the day of Hajj in Makkah has no basis in Shariah (Islamic Law). In fact, some scholars consider such a practice is an innovation (*Bi'dah*) of the modern communication system that did not exist in the past!

### Reports from foreign countries

It should be mentioned that due to the adverse weather conditions in UK where the moon cannot be sighted for consecutive months, many *Fuqaha* (Muslim Jurists) have given permissions to UK Muslims to act on the reliable/verified Hilal sighting news from **any** countries in the East of the UK/Morocco, provided: (1) an earnest effort has been made to sight the Hilal locally in the UK after sunset, (2) reliable news can be obtained **directly** from the foreign authority and (3) the news is easily obtained within a reasonable time (e.g. within 2 hours of London sunset).

Fortunately, news from a few countries does fulfil the above conditions, including Morocco and South Africa. However, more efforts need to be made to establish contacts with other countries in the east of the UK/Morocco. A recent attempt to share the Hilal sighting news from the Muslims of Portugal has failed because they simply follow the Saudi Ummul Qura calendar or the announcement of Saudi Arabia.

As explained in the Ramadan report (“When is Ramadan 1434 AH”), the Hilal sighting news from Saudi Arabia have been found to be unreliable. If there is a difference in Hilal sighting reports between Saudi Arabia and other nearby countries, then unfortunately there will be a **split** in UK Muslim communities for the date of Eid-ul Adha, since some large UK mosques strictly follow Saudi announcements only. This type of chaos/divisions in the UK Muslim communities is likely to continue every year until our scholars are united, unfortunately.

Finally, we would like to request all our Scholars, Imams and Masjid Committee members to refrain from making any announcement for the start of Dhul Hijjah (or any other lunar months) based on the prediction of crescent visibility (or foreign news) until *after* our 29th lunar day sunset times so that we have the opportunity to look for the Hilal on our own horizon according to the *Sunnah* of Prophet Muhammad (*Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam*) before considering any foreign news.

### Report by Email/SMS

For regular moon sighting reports and discussions from the UK and around the world, please join our group of from the ICOUK website ([www.moonsighting.org.uk](http://www.moonsighting.org.uk)). We pray to Allah Almighty to unite all the Muslims of the UK on a Shariah compliant moon sighting criteria based on evidence and not emotions (Ameen).

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Dated: 21 September 2013/15 Dhul Qaidah 1434 AH