



❧ CHAPTER 8 ❧

THE CENTRAL HILAL COMMITTEE OF NORTH AMERICA

A Brief History

2009 - Establishment of the Central Hilal Committee: New York, NY: Ulama Kiram from 13 states across the US convened in New York for the first time to solve these dissensions and organize the moon sighting effort nationally. They all agreed to coordinate monthly moon sighting efforts and maintain a proper shahadah system in accordance to the Quran and Sunnah. To achieve unity across the states, they also agreed to coordinate the moon sighting announcement from this central body instead of announcing separately from their individual organizations.

2014 - 2nd National Moonsighting Conference: Long Island, NY: 4 states joined CHC. Ulama Kiram from 17 states attended the conference.

They all agreed that astronomical calculation is completely against the Shariah.

2015 - 3rd National Moonsighting Conference: Chicago, IL: 5 states joined CHC. Ulama Kiram from a total of 22 states attended the conference.

2016 - 4th National Moonsighting Conference: Chicago, IL: 1 state joined CHC. Ulama Kiram from a total of 23 states attended the conference.

2019 - 5th National Moonsighting Conference: Stockton, CA: 2 states joined CHC. Ulama Kiram from a total of 25 states attended the conference.

2024 - 6th National Moonsighting Conference: Walden, NY: 2 states joined CHC. Ulama Kiram from a total of 27 states will attend the conference, inshaAllah.

Alhamdulillah, the Central Hilal Committee of North America (CHC) is now consisted of subcommittees across 27 states of the US. CHC coordinates local community members, across the US, to go out on the 29th of every Islamic month and look for the moon. Local Ulama members accept the testimonies of reported sightings and forward the information to the national Ulama committee. After a national consultation meeting via a conference call, a joint decision is made for all states. The announcement is disseminated from a central source, eliminating any possible confusion.

CHC Resolutions

RESOLUTION ONE:

3 Rajab, 1430 AH, corresponding to June 27, 2009 CE

Shariah Approved Solutions to Hilal Sighting and Allied Issues: Jackson Heights, NY

The sighting of the hilal is one of the important issues that the Muslim Ummah faces every year. The differences and ensuing rifts that appear on this issue among the Muslims in the entire country, are in fact truly painful for all the caring and sensitive members of the Muslim community.

To think this problem over, and to find a solution, the heads of the hilal committees of different states gathered for a 'National Hilal Sighting Conference' under the auspices of Shariah Approved Solutions to Hilal Sighting and Allied Issues. This conference was held on Saturday, 3rd Rajab, 1430 AH, corresponding to June 27th, 2009 at The Conference Hall, Bangladesh Plaza, in Jackson Heights, New York.

We are very pleased to announce that, a "Central Hilal Sighting Committee" was formed under the guidance and auspices of renowned Ulama, to find an organized solution to this problem. It should be known that all local hilal committees throughout the US, Canada, and the Caribbean Islands have at least one (1) representative as part of the Central Hilal Sighting Committee. It should be kept in mind that the participating Ulama Kiram consider *Ikhtilaful Matali'* (Difference of Horizons) as correct from the Shar'i point of view.

The participants of the National Hilal Sighting Conference were as follows:

Shaikh Shah Nawalur Rahman, Chairman, Rahmate Alam Foundation, Chicago

Shaikh Abdus Sattar, Chairman, Chicago Hilal Committee, Illinois
Shaikh Obaidur Rahman, Chairman, Shariah Council, California
Dr. Khalid Siddiqi, Vice Chairman, Shariah Council, California
Shaikh Husaamuddin from Houston, Texas
Shaikh Nisaarul Haq from Houston, Texas
Shaikh Irfan Kabiruddin, Secretary, Ulama Council of Maryland
Shaikh Haamid Kamal from Maryland
Shaikh Muhammad Naumani from Maryland
Shaikh Ibrahim from Maryland
Shaikh Abdul Majeed, Vice Chairman, Ulama Council of Virginia
Shaikh Abdul Muqtadir, Imam, Nidaaul Islam Masjid, New Jersey
Shaikh Sharfuddin from New Jersey
Shaikh Shahid from New Jersey
Shaikh Imran Sharif, Imam, Danbury Masjid, Connecticut
Shaikh Shamsuddin from Connecticut
Br. Bilal Yaqub from Burlington, MA, representative of Islamic
Council of New England, Imams Shura Council
Shaikh Ibrahim from Florida
Shaikh Muhammad Ali from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Shaikh Mansoor from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Shaikh Ahmad Abdur Rab, representative of Ulama Council of
Detroit, Michigan
Shaikh Ibrahim Madani from Buffalo, New York
Shaikh Mutiur Rahman, Imam, Masjid Muwahhideen, Long Island,
New York
Shaikh Abdur Razzaq, Imam, Seldon Masjid, Long Island, New
York
Shaikh Rafiq, Imam, Masjid As Safaa, Manhattan, New York
Shaikh Mujeibur Raman, Imam, Madinah Masjid, Manhattan, New
York

Shaikh Ruhullah, Imam, Bangladesh Muslim Center, Brooklyn, New York

Shaikh Muhibbur Rahman, Imam, Masjid Baitul Jannah, Brooklyn, New York

Shaikh Mufti Khalid Kawser from Brooklyn, New York

Shaikh Hidayatullah from Bronx, New York

Shaikh Ashrafuz Zamaan Khan, President, North American Imam Federation (NAIF), ex president, Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA)

Shaikh Mufti Jamaluddin, Chairman Baitul Hamd Institute New York

Shaikh Mufti Ruhul Amin, Chairman Darul Quran Wassunnah New York

Shaikh Mufti Noman Vazir, Secetary, Shariah Board of New York

Shaikh Yameen, Senior Teacher, Darul Uloom New York (DUNY), Queens, New York

Shaikh Suhel Teli, Teacher, Darul Uloom New York (DUNY), Queens, New York

And many other Ulama Kiram.

Those Ulama who were unable to attend the conference due to their prior engagements nevertheless expressed their support and promised their cooperation. Some of the noted ones include: members of the Toronto hilal Committee; Imam Siraj Wahaaj of Masjid Taqwa, Amir of Muslim Alliance in North America (MANA); Shaikh Mufti Abdur Rahman Qamar; Imam, Madni Masjid, New York; Shaikh Zafeer Uddin, Imam, I.C.N.A. Markaz, Jamaica; Shaikh Aslamuddin Al Azhari, Imam, Masjid Abu Hurairah; Shaikh Faiquddin, Imam, Jame Masjid Jackson Heights; Shaikh Muneer Ahmad Akhoon, President Al Muneer Foundation, New York; Imam Tariq Rasheed; Shaikh Azhar Subedar; and Shaikh Haroon from Florida.

The following items were unanimously agreed upon in the conference:

(1) Formation of a Central Hilal Sighting Committee: A central committee has been formed comprising of the members of the hilal committees of different states, Canada, and the Caribbean Islands. Initially, representatives from 11 different states and major cities have been included in this committee and representatives of the remaining states and other cities will be added in the future, Insha'Allah.

(2) All the countries and islands of North America, excluding Alaska and Hawaii, will be considered as one 'horizon' – further details will be forthcoming in the meeting minutes.

(3) All local hilal committees of different states will meet regularly on the 29th of each Islamic month in their respective areas and appoint responsible persons for the sighting of the hilal. The responsible persons will in turn present any reported sighting to their respective local hilal committee.

(4) The decision will be made by the Ulama of the local hilal committee solely on the grounds of Shar'i Shahadah (see #6 below). When needed, help will be sought from Muslim astronomers regarding the probability of sighting the hilal.

(5) The Central Hilal Committee will help organize hilal committees in states where there are no existing local hilal committees.

(6) The conditions for Shar'i Shahadah (testimony according to Shari'ah) mentioned by the jurists are as follows:

i. The witness must be a Muslim; a non-Muslim's testimony is not acceptable regarding the sighting of the hilal.

ii. The witness must be sane; an insane person's testimony is not acceptable.

iii. The witness must be an adult; a minor's testimony is not acceptable.

iv. The witness must not be blind.

v. The witness must be just and honest.

vi. The most important factor that must be present in all Shahadahs (testimonies) is that the witness be a “just” person, as Allah Ta’ala has mentioned it specifically in the Quran: “And take testimony from the just and honest amongst you.”

vii. The words “I testify” must be used in the testimony; without this word, the testimony will be null and void. The word “I testify” renders the meaning of “swearing under oath”. Therefore, it is necessary that at the beginning of the testimonial, the witness must say that; “I testify that such incident happened in such a manner.”

viii. The witness must be an eye witness, i.e., he or she was present and observed the moon themselves, and is not merely testifying on hearsay.

Generally for all Islamic months, but particularly for Ramadan and the two Eids, the members of the Central Hilal Sighting Committee will coordinate amongst themselves and present their unanimous decision to the Muslim masses. In order to reach the Muslim masses and for coordination purposes, the website www.hilalcommittee.org will be used.

We would like to make a passionate and heartfelt appeal to the Muslims of North America to trust the Ulama and adhere to their decisions regarding the beginning and end of the blessed month of Ramadan and the correct day of Eid al Adha.

RESOLUTION NUMBER TWO:

20 Jumadal Ula, 1435 AH, corresponding to March 22, 2014 CE
Shariah Approved Solutions to Hilal Sighting and Allied
Issues: Long Island, NY

Ulama from 21 states attended the conference, and after eight long hours of academic discussion, the following items were unanimously agreed upon:

The important responsibility of preserving the Islamic Hijri date and calendar falls upon all the Muslims of North America in their respective localities. To fulfill this responsibility, they must make local efforts to go out and look for the moon every month.

Beginning Ramadan and determining the two Eids based on astronomical calculations is absolutely impermissible in the Shari'ah.

The theory of 'Unification of the Moons and Eids' is not in accordance with the Shari'ah. Moreover, deciding Ramadan and the two Eids based on the Saudi announcement is invalid, both from a Shar'i and scientific perspective.

The Caribbean Islands and such areas of South America are included in the horizon, from where the reports of the moon reach the Ulama of CHC via tariq mujib. For instance, Chile, Venezuela, and Argentina, where local Ulama actively look for the moon.

Alhamdulillah, 11 additional states have established local moonsighting committees and are now under the umbrella of the Central Hilal Committee. Furthermore, the Ulama responsible for coordinating the Central Hilal Committee were appointed.

Insha Allah, CHC shall make unanimous monthly announcements on behalf of and through the help of all the Ulama doing their valuable parts in their local hilal committees.

We would also like to make a passionate and heartfelt appeal to the Muslims of North America to stay updated with the correct Islamic dates via the CHC website, www.hilalcommittee.org, and Twitter page, @CentralHilalCmt.

RESOLUTION NUMBER THREE:

13 Rajab, 1436 AH, corresponding to May 2, 2015 CE
3rd Moonsighting Conference: Chicago, IL

The following items were unanimously agreed upon in the conference:

The representative of the Central Hilal Committee of North America should arrange efforts to look for the moon on the night following the 29th day of every Islamic month in different Masajid of their respective cities. Subcommittees should be formed and encouraged to do this effort by explaining the importance of moonsighting. Furthermore, one Alim (scholar) should be present at each location where the effort is being made, and all reports, positive or negative, should be forwarded to CHC.

Communication should be established with those Masajid or Islamic centers who follow calculations or global moonsighting.

Representatives of each state should set seminars in local Masajid according to their convenience so that the responsible Ulama of CHC may attend to explain the importance of moonsighting.

The booklets already published by CHC should be printed in large numbers and distributed free of charge among the Muslim masses.

RESOLUTION NUMBER FOUR:

15 Rajab, 1437 AH, corresponding to April 23, 2016 CE

4th CHC National Conference: Chicago, IL

The following items were unanimously declared in the conference:

(1) Islam is a religion of peace that teaches comprehensive guidance to successfully conduct the life of all human beings. It commands its followers to be peaceful, be promoters of peace and to strive to exemplify the qualities of kindness, love, mercy, patience, tolerance, and morality in the society.

(2) Peace, mercy, and tolerance are the most important defining words for the collective personality of a Muslim.

(3) The current effort of moonsighting nationwide must continue, and local masajid not yet following the proper way should be convinced with hikmah.

RESOLUTION NUMBER FIVE:

26-27 Jumadal Ula, 1440 AH, corresponding to February 2-3, 2019 CE

5th CHC National Conference: Stockton, CA

The representatives of the Central Hilal Committee convened for the Fifth National CHC Conference to discuss primarily the topic of moonsighting, along with a few other important issues related to the Muslim Ummah.

The claims that have circulated in support of “Global Moon Sighting”, misusing certain classical texts of the Fugaha, are simply a means of following Saudi moon sighting announcements. In this conference, held in California, clears proofs from the books of Figh were presented explaining why this view is against the Shariah, illogical and incautious in this matter. It was proven by this that ‘Global

Moon Sighting' and following Saudi moon sighting announcements, in countries foreign to them, is against the Shariah.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously as well:

(1) CHC representatives will continue the local efforts to sight the moon every month in accordance to the commandments of the Shariah (explained in the conference). The positive and negative reports of sighting will be informed to the Central Hilal Committee via email, twitter, mobile app, website, phone, etc.

(2) CHC representatives agree that machine slaughter is NOT halal according to the Shariah.

(3) Opinions were presented in the conference by different Ulama Kiram regarding the establishment of a 'Wifaqul Ulama' (Council of Theologians). Other Ulama opined that a council be established for the protection of Khatm Nubuwwah (Finality of the Prophethood).

(4) The need and organization of maktabas to educate the youth was discussed.

The members of the Central Hilal Committee of North America would like to make a passionate and heartfelt appeal to the Muslims of North America to trust the Ulama Kiram and adhere to their decisions regarding the beginning and end of the blessed month of Ramadan and the correct day of Eid.

We ask Allah to show us the Straight Path and allow us to follow it, and show us what is incorrect and allow us to abstain from it.

Participants of the Fifth National CHC Conference were as follows:

Chief Guest: Shaikh Suliman Gani, South London, UK,

Member, ICOUK AND Wifaqul Ulama, Head Imam at Purley Masjid, Founder, Al Khaleel Institute, Graduate of Madinah University, Faculty

of Hadith, MA in Islamic Studies from SOAS University, London

(1) Arizona:

1. Shaikh Umar Farooq Mahmood, Imam, Masjid Ibrahim, Kingman

Connecticut:

2. Shaikh Haqqani Mian Qadri, Imam, Stamford Masjid
3. Shaikh Shamsuddin, Bridgeport Masjid

(2) Florida:

4. Shaikh Zakariyyah Badat, Imam, Director, Masjid Khaleel, Davie

(3) Illinois

5. Shaikh Mohammad Amjad Ali Qasmi, Rahmate Alam Foundation, Shariah Board America

6. Shaikh Abdus Sattar, Chairman, Chicago Hilal Committee
7. Shaikh Abdul Haleem, Rahmate Alam Foundation, Shariah Board America

8. Shaikh Azeem J. Mohammad

(4) Louisiana:

9. Shaikh Yasir Usmani

(5) Massachusetts:

10. Shaikh Mushtaque Ahmad, Darul Arqam
11. Shaikh Shakeelur Rahman, Imam, Islamic Center of Burlington
12. Shaikh Akhtar Jaan
13. Shaikh Abdurrahman Ahmad

(6) Minnesota:

14. Shaikh Fawzaan Nadwi, Imam, Darul Arqam Minneapolis

(7) New Jersey:

15. Shaikh Abdul Muqtadir, Nidaul Islam
16. Shaikh Sharfuddin, Islamic Center of Harrison
17. Shaikh Maseehuddin

(8) New York:

18. Shaikh Jamaluddin, Shariah Board, New York (SBNY), Baitul

Hamd Institute

19. Shaikh Ruhul Amin, SBNY, Darul Quran WasSunnah (DQWS)

20. Shaikh Kashif Aziz, Resident Scholar, Masjid Hamza, Valley Stream, NY

21. Shaikh Khalid Kawsar, Jamia Darus Sunnah, Brooklyn, NY

22. Shaikh Manzoor, Darul Uloom New York (DUNY)

23. Shaikh Borhan, SBNY, DQWS

24. Shaikh Ubaidullah, SBNY, DQWS

25. Shaikh Amir Elhadidy (Staten Island)

26. Shaikh Ilyas Seth, DQWS

27. Shaikh Mikael Abdurrahman, Darul Uloom New York (DUNY)

28. Shaikh Mahmoodul Islam, SBNY, DQWS

29. Shaikh Kamaluddin Mohammad, DQWS

30. Shaikh Faisal Wahab, SBNY, DQWS

31. Shaikh Fahad Wahab, SBNY, DQWS

32. Shaikh Abdussamad Abdulawal, SBNY, DQWS

33. Shaikh Mohammad Ismail, An-Noor Cultural Center, Queens

34. Shaikh Ilyas Bhula, SBNY, DQWS

35. Shaikh Fakrul Islam, SBNY, DQWS

36. Shaikh Noman Vazir, SBNY, DQWS

(9) Nevada:

37. Shaikh Faruq Dowdell

(10) North Carolina:

38. Shaikh Amjad Ali

(11) Pennsylvania:

39. Shaikh Muslihuddeen Kawsar (Rihlatul Ilm Foundation)

40. Shaikh Muhammad Chowdhury

(12) Virginia:

41. Shaikh Shahzad M. Hussain, Imam, Masjid Nur, Springfield

42. Shaikh Qareeb Rahman, Imam, Manassas Muslim Association

43. Shaikh Kashif Saleem, Teacher, Masjid Sabireen, (ISGH)

44. Shaikh Nur Ahmad, Al-Noor Muslim Community Center
(Manor)

(13) Washington:

45. Shaikh Ahmad Abdul Mujeeb, Imam, Masjid Umar Al Farooq,
Seattle

46. Shaikh Fazal Hassan (Bellevue)

(14) Oregon:

47. Shaikh Abdul Hamid, Imam, Masjid Ibrahim (Portland)

(15) California:

48. Shaikh Obedur Rahman, Ameer Islamic Shariah Council of
California (ISCCA)

49. Shaikh Khalid Siddiqui, Vice President, ISCCA

50. Shaikh Muddassir, Religious Director, ISCCA, Fremont

51. Shaikh Nawaz Khan, ISCCA

52. Shaikh Tameem Ahmadi, ISCCA

53. Shaikh Shakib Nawabi (San Diego) ISCCA

54. Shaikh Khalid Saeed, ISCCA

55. Shaikh Shadman Ahmad Qasmi, ISCCA

56. Shaikh Ahmad Umarji, ISCCA

57. Shaikh Abdullah Nana, ISCCA

58. Shaikh Ahmad Baseer Hamidi, ISCCA

59. Shaikh Zakariyya Twist, Zaytuna Institute, Crescent Watch

60. Shaikh Mohibullah, ISCCA

61. Shaikh Basim Rahman, ISCCA

62. Shaikh Faseeh Khajah, ISCCA

63. Shaikh Abdul Sattar, Imam of Madina Center Stockton, ISCCA

64. Shaikh Yasir Khan, ISCCA

65. Shaikh Ahsan Osman, ISCCA

66. Shaikh Latifurrahman, ISCCA

67. Shaikh Nabeelurrahman, ISCCA
68. Shaikh Meraj Desai, ISCCA
69. Shaikh Hamza Mehter, ISCCA
70. Shaikh Imraan, ISCCA
71. Shaikh Niamatullah, ISCCA
72. Shaikh Aziz Rahman, ISCCA
73. Shaikh Rohullah Bayanzai, ISCCA
74. Shaikh Kamran Abid, ISCCA

Those Ulama Kiraam who were unable to attend the conference due to prior engagements, and expressed their support and promised their cooperation, were from the states of Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, and New Mexico.