



## The 5<sup>th</sup> National Moon Sighting Conference

Date: 26,27 Jumada al-Oula 1440 H / 2,3 February 2019

Venue: Madina Center, Stockton, CA

Host: Islamic Shariah Council of California

Arranged by: Shariah Board of America

الحمد لله الذي جعل العلم نورا يهتدى به عند اختلاف الآراء ، وأوضح سبيله لسالكيه المتقين وإن اضطربت فيه الأهواء ، وفيض له في كل زمان رجالا هم على الحق أدلاء ، صالوا بسنان أقدامهم وصارم لسانهم لنصرته بلا ارعواء ، والصلاة والسلام على سيدنا محمد أشرف المرسلين ، وخاتم الأنبياء ، وعلى آله وأصحابه الأتقياء النجباء ، صلاة وسلاما دائمين ، ما طلع نجم في الغبراء ، وسطع نجم في الزرقاء ، أما بعد -

The Muslim residents of North America face widespread dissention and disagreements in regards to the important issue of moonsighting every year during Ramadan and the two Eids. Since this is a matter of *Fardh Kifayah*, and at least one *fardh* fast, Zakat dates, 'Iddat dates and the Muslim calendar are all at stake, the Ulama Kiram have been working diligently to solve this issue. Historically, Ulama Kiram have invested their faculties and resources, to the greatest extent possible, in order to solve such contemporary issues.

Twenty years ago, the Muslims of North America mostly followed the proper moon sighting system in accordance to the Quran and Sunnah without any dissention. Gradually, a group broke away looking to follow the Saudi moon sighting announcements. Some named this 'global moon sighting' while others claimed to be following Makkah Mukarramah by this newly invented idea. In 2006, another group broke away from the pure and authentic system of monthly moon sighting according to the Quran and Sunnah to replace it with astronomical calculations.

In 2009, the Ulama Kiram from across the US convened in New York for the first time to solve these dissentions and organize the moon sighting effort nationally. Member Ulama from 13 states decided to establish a central hilal committee. 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.

By the grace of Allah, these efforts grew to include up to 25 states and hundreds of masjid throughout the US. The Central Hilal Committee of North America and its subcommittee representatives from these

25 states have worked very hard to solve the problem for the last ten years. These efforts have been very fruitful and the problem has been solved to a great extent. With continued efforts and collaboration, more positive results are anticipated, insha-Allah.

To further revive this abandoned Sunnah, 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 Fuqaha, are simply a means of following Saudi moon sighting announcements. In this conference, held in California, clear proofs from the books of Fiqh 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.

Please visit [www.hilalcommittee.org](http://www.hilalcommittee.org) for the latest updates and moon sighting information.

## Participants of the Fifth National CHC Conference

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

Arizona:

Shaikh Umar Farooq Mahmood, Imam, Masjid Ibrahim, Kingman

Connecticut:

Shaikh Haqqani Mian Qadri, Imam, Stamford Masjid

Shaikh Shamsuddin, Bridgeport Masjid

Florida:

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

Illinois:

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

Shaikh Abdus Sattar, Chairman, Chicago Hilal Committee

Shaikh Abdul Haleem, Rahmate Alam Foundation, Shariah Board America

Shaikh Azeem J. Mohammad

Louisiana:

Shaikh Yasir Usman

Massachusetts:

Shaikh Mushtaque Ahmad, Darul Arqam

Shaikh Shakeelur Rahman, Imam, Islamic Center of Burlington

Shaikh Akhtar Jaan

Shaikh Abdurrahman Ahmad

Minnesota:

Shaikh Fawzaan Nadwi, Imam, Darul Arqam Minneapolis

New Jersey:

Shaikh Abdul Muqtadir, Nidaul Islam

Shaikh Sharfuddin, Islamic Center of Harrison

Shaikh Maseehuddin

New York:

Shaikh Jamaluddin, Shariah Board, New York (SBNY), Baitul Hamd Institute

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

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

Shaikh Khalid Kawsar, Jamia Darus Sunnah, Brooklyn, NY

Shaikh Manzoor, Darul Uloom New York (DUNY)

Shaikh Borhan, SBNY, DQWS

Shaikh Ubaidullah, SBNY, DQWS

Shaikh Amir Elhadidy (Staten Island)

Shaikh Ilyas Seth, DQWS

Shaikh Mikael Abdurrahman, Darul Uloom New York (DUNY)

Shaikh Mahmood Islam, SBNY, DQWS

Shaikh Kamaluddin Mohammad, DQWS  
Shaikh Faisal Wahab, SBNY, DQWS  
Shaikh Fahad Wahab, SBNY, DQWS  
Shaikh Abdussamad, SBNY, DQWS  
Shaikh Mohammad Ismail, An-Noor Cultural Center, Queens, NY  
Shaikh Ilyas Bhula, SBNY, DQWS  
Shaikh Fakrul Islam, SBNY, DQWS  
Shaikh Noman Vazir, SBNY, DQWS

Nevada:

Shaikh Faruq Dowdell

North Carolina:

Shaikh Amjad Ali

Pennsylvania:

Shaikh Muslihuddeen Kawsar (Rihlatul Ilm Foundation)

Shaikh Muhammad Chowdhury

Virginia:

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

Shaikh Qareeb Rahman, Imam, Manassas Muslim Association

Texas:

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

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

Washington:

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

Shaikh Fazal Hassan (Bellevue)

Oregon:

Shaikh Abdul Hamid, Imam, Masjid Ibrahim (Portland)

California:

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

Shaikh Khalid Siddiqui, Vice President, ISCCA

Shaikh Muddassir, Religious Director, ISCCA, Fremont

Shaikh Nawaz Khan, ISCCA

Shaikh Tameem Ahmadi, ISCCA

Shaikh Shakib Nawabi (San Diego) ISCCA

Shaikh Khalid Saeed, ISCCA

Shaikh Shadman Ahmad Qasmi, ISCCA

Shaikh Ahmad Umarji, ISCCA

Shaikh Abdullah Nana, ISCCA, HFSAA

Shaikh Ahmad Baseer Hamidi, ISCCA

Shaikh Zakariyya Twist, Zaytuna Institute, Crescent Watch

Shaikh Mohibullah, ISCCA

Shaikh Basim Rahman, ISCCA

Shaikh Faseeh Khajah, ISCCA

Shaikh Abdul Sattar, Imam of Madina Center Stockton, ISCCA

Shaikh Yasir Khan, ISCCA

Shaikh Ahsan Osman, ISCCA  
Shaikh Latifurrahman, ISCCA  
Shaikh Nabeelurrahman, ISCCA  
Shaikh Meraj Desai, ISCCA  
Shaikh Hamza Mehter, ISCCA  
Shaikh Imraan, ISCCA  
Shaikh Niamatullah, ISCCA  
Shaikh Aziz Rahman, ISCCA  
Shaikh Rohullah Bayanzai, ISCCA  
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.