



April 12, 2013

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

Dear Brother/Sister.

We are confident that this note reaches you all in the finest of wellbeing and Iman insha-Allah.

The intent of this communication is to share with you essential information about the issue in relation to the subject of “Global Sighting of the Hilal” which lately has become the topic of dialogue amongst the members of the Hilal Committee of Toronto and the general public to some degree.

By the grace of Allah, the Hilal Committee of Toronto has been serving the Muslim community in respect to providing reliable moon sighting information for over three (3) decades with this vision in mind that the moon sighting procedures for the Hilal Committee of Toronto conform to Islamic juristic principles while making it as practical and convenient, but never at the cost of compromising in any Islamic ruling.

In Islam, the juristic viewpoint of Global sighting is not new at all, however what equally important to understand and know is that no country of the world ever in the history of Islam has practiced this juristic viewpoint of Global Sighting. It is not because they did not want to practice it, but rather they understood the very important Prophetic directive of sighting the Hilal of each month, and more specifically for the month of Ramadan and the 2 Eid's, as well the strict conditions that are attached to the sighting of the moon coupled with practicality, made it difficult to exercise this viewpoint in complete factual sense.

Also applying the view of Global Sighting and not considering difference of horizons as a broad-spectrum ruling poses certain pertinent difficulties. The most crucial is that because the time difference between some cities of the world is more than 12 hours, applying this view will result in the month having only 28 days or at times 31 days. This result is in direct conflict with the Hadith of the Prophet ﷺ who has fixed the number of days of a month to be either 29 or 30.

Furthermore, many jurists have ruled that two places that do not normally see the moon on the same day (stemming from a great difference of longitude and latitude) cannot rely on each other for moon sighting just as they do not rely on each other for prayer timings because “Matla (horizon)” refers to the place of rising of the moon. The moon is born in different parts of the world and accordingly will rise and

set at different times depending on the various geographic locations. Thus, the moon will rise and will be visible at a particular place and might not be visible at another place at the same time due to the latter having different moonrise and set time.

It is true that with certain human advancement and with technological assistance relaying information for sighting the moon has become easier but nowhere close to TRUE GLOBAL SIGHTING.

In recent months, the Hilal Committee of Toronto has undertaken, as they have been from time to time in the past, to reconsider its moon sighting parameters to see what range we can extend our moon sighting parameters with the possibility of adopting and trying to practically implement the juristic view of Global Sighting which can also meet other Islamic measures attached to this practice of moon sighting which in itself is considered an Ibaadah (worship) while making it easier to practice and follow it. It is for these reasons; the Hilal Committee of Toronto has been in touch with prominent Ulema, Muftis and renowned Darul Ulooms (Islamic Institutions) of the world and have sought several Fatawas (juristic opinions) and counsel in this regard. So that it would aid the resident Ulema to arrive at a conclusive resolution after comprehensive study, examination, and deliberation amongst the Ulema fraternity.

Regrettably, this did not transpire and the Fatawa (juristic opinions) received were circulated imprudently generating further misinterpretation.

As one can appreciate, this matter requires a thorough research in all facets, the Hilal Committee of Toronto towards the end of its research work, will soon have a meeting of its members to keep them informed and updated insha-Allah

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In the mean time we request you to make duaa to Allah that may we continue to serve the Muslim community in the subject matter in a way which can bring the pleasure of Allah by way of accepting our efforts and endeavours as moon sighting is also an act of worship (Ibadah) which we cannot completely eliminate or make it subject to any humanly approaches as human approaches are humanly and nothing else and as such can come nowhere close to the divine injunctions and ways of the creator, Allah and his last Messenger, Muhammad ﷺ

Respectfully,  
Administration  
HC of GTA

هذا وبالله التوفيق، والحمد لله رب العالمين.