



Republic of Turkey
Presidency of Religious Affairs
Higher Council for Religious Affairs
In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

DIYANET
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All praise is to Allah “who made the sun radiant, and the moon a light, and determined phases for it that you may know the number of years and the calculation.” (Surat Yunus, 5) Peace and blessing may be on Sayyidina Muhammad who was sent a mercy to all mankind.

1. In response to the request sent to the Higher Council for Religious Affairs from Imams, khatibs and muftis in regards to the announcement of the first day of Shawwal, Eid Al-Fitr, for the year 1440 AH, the Council is issuing the following announcement.

2. We ask Allah to accept the prayers, fasting, sadaqah and good deeds from all Muslims, and to make this Eid a celebration of our safety and to grant relief to those who are oppressed worldwide. We also ask Allah to bestow his mercy and forgiveness on those fallen martyrs, and to give their families patience to persevere in their absence.

3. The Higher Council calls for the unity of all Muslims during this blessed month and reminds all Muslims ““And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided. And remember -the favor of Allah upon you- when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers...” (Surat Al-Imran, 103).

4. The Higher Council recommends that all Muslims use the methodology adopted by the “International Conference for Lunar Month and Unified Hijri Calendar” organized by the (DİB) Turkish Presidency of Religious Affairs, in Istanbul between 21-23 of Shaban, 1437 AH, 28-30 May, 2016, in cooperation with the European Council for Fatwa and Research, and the International Astronomical Center, which was attended by delegates from 70 countries, a great number of scholars, astronomers, muftis, and the majority of Fatwa councils around the world. Which recognizes astronomical calculation as an acceptable Shar’i method for determining the beginning of Lunar months. The recommendation of the conference was based on several sharia and astronomical principles.

a. One of the most important principles is that the basis for establishing the beginnings of Hijri months is the possibility of sighting the crescent and prove the sighting in a decisive manner from any place on earth, previously and on the way cannot be opposed whether with the naked eye or through telescopes and other modern astronomical devices.

b. Another principle is that the scientific astronomical calculation are able to decisively determine the exact time when a sighting is possible.

c. The third principle is that there is no significance for the variance in local moonsighting due to the generality of the hadith “Fast when the crescent is sighted and break your fast when it is sighted.” (muttafaq Ėalaihi) and the hadith “the fast is the day the



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people fast, the breaking of the fast is the day the people break their fast, and the sacrifice is the day the people sacrifice.” (at-Tirmidh)

5. Based on these principles, the scientific astronomical calculations regarding the crescent of Shawal for the year 1440 AH, confirm that the conjunction will be at 10:02 (Universal Time/GMT) on 3 June 2019, 28 Ramadan 1440 AH. It will be possible to sight the moon the same day after sunset in South America and the southern part of North America. Therefore, the first day of Shawwal (Eid ul-Fitr) will be Tuesday, June 4th, 2019 insha’Allah.

6. In order to unify the Muslims and for the mutual benefit of all Muslims and to avoid the dangers of conflict and disagreement, the Higher Council recommends that all Muslims living in Muslims or non-Muslim countries to unify their decision by adopting the decisions of the Higher Council for Religious Affairs and another Fatwa Councils. Rather they should accept decisions of their Fatwa authorities such as the The European Council for Fatwa and Research (ECFR), Fiqh Council of North America (FCNA), and the Presidency of Religious Affairs (DİYK). Since it is not permissible for Muslims in one country to disagree their fatwa authorities about days of their fasting and their Eids.

7. Therefore, it is the Higher Councils recommendation for all Moslms, Imams, Khatibs and Muftis who had requested this clarification to work on determining Eid ul-Fitr based on the announcement of the Higher Council of Religious Affairs and to avoid the annual disputes over the Eid days knowing that this announcement is based on the possibility of sighting all over the world whether with the naked eye or with astronomical devices, without consideration for the variation of local sightening, as agreed by the majority of scholars and fatwa councils and based on Sharia and Astronomical principles. It is also recommended to put aside all disputes and start working on practical solutions through a religious fatwa by a specialized entity which holds the two main objectives of the sharia moonsighting; namely that the announcement should not result in starting the new month when the crescent has not been born yet, or delaying the start of the month when the crescent is sighted decisively in any point on earth. We ask Allah for all Muslims to reach Eid Ul-Fitr with blessings and barakah of Allah.

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