



The General Secretariat of the Irish Council of Imams

A statement Re. the commencement of Ramadan 1435HJ

The Irish Council
of Imams

19 Roebuck Road
Dublin 14
Ireland

Phone:
+353 1 2195454

Fax:
+353 1 2603708

E-mail:
irishimamcouncil
@gmail.com

Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the worlds and may Allah's peace blessings and mercy be upon our prophet Muhammad, his family, his companions and those who follow his guidance until the Day of Judgment.

The General Secretariat of the Irish Council of Imams would like to take this opportunity and appeal to all the Muslims to hold fast to Allah's religion together and not to be divided in full conformity with the verse in which Allah states:

اعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُم مِّنْهَا ۚ كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ. 3:103

“Hold on firmly together to the rope of God, and be not divided among yourselves, and remember the favours God bestowed on you when you were one another's foe and He reconciled your hearts, and you turned into brethren through His grace. You had stood on the edge of a pit of fire and He saved you from it, thus revealing to you His clear signs that you may find the right way perchance.”

Regarding Ramadan's crescent, the General Secretariat confirms resolution No 18 issued by the International Fiqh Academy in the third session in 1986 stating that divergent geographical location should not be taken into consideration since the Prophet's address is expressed in general terms: “Fast when sighting the crescent and break your fast when sighting the crescent.” Agreed upon. The General Secretariat also stresses the ratification reached in the first session held in Istanbul on 27-30 November 1978 by the Hijri Calendar Committee, and the outcome formed in light of the scientific findings by the Seminar of the Hijri Calendar held in Paris in



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the period 12-13 Rabi Al-Awal 1433 correspondent to 4-5 February 2012. This seminar was attended by a number of Muslim jurists and astronomers. The General Secretariat also highlights the final statement issued by the International Conference on the commencement of the lunar months between Islamic jurists and astronomers organized in the period 19-21 Rabi Al-Awal 1433 corresponding to 11-13 February 2012 by the Fiqh Academy, Islamic League in Mecca. It was attended by a great number of scholars and astronomers. The General Secretariat also sheds light on the resolution issued in the 19th session held in Istanbul in the period 8-12 Rajab 1430 corresponding to the Fourth of July 2009 by the European Council for Fatwa and Research.

All the above-mentioned conferences recommended accepting sighting the crescent worldwide once it is seen anywhere since it helps unite Muslims in general and particularly in Europe and accomplish objectives and cherished hopes in terms of determining the times of rituals and festivals especially in the countries where holidays should be arranged in advance. This resolution is in harmony with the Islamic objectives as well as people's interest.

Based on the above-mentioned the General Secretariat of the Irish Council of Imams announces that:

- 1- According to accurate astronomical calculations Ramadan's crescent 1435 Hiri appears in the horizon at 08.08 GMT on Friday 27th of June 2014 corresponding to 11.08 Meccan time.
- 2- According to astronomical calculations sighting the crescent is viable in conformity with the conditions stipulated by the European Council for Fatwa and Research as expressed in its resolution issued in the 19th session held in Istanbul in the period 8-12 Rajab 1430 Hijri corresponding to 30/06-04/07/2009.
- 3- The crescent was seen in Yemen and the Yemeni Ifta declared that Saturday 28/06/2014 would be the first of Ramadan 1434hijri. We have accepted the Yemeni sighting of the crescent by virtue of the hadith "Commence your fasting the day you sight the crescent and



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- break your fast the day you sight the crescent.” And also the Fiqh rule that states that the geographical location should be overlooked.
- 4- Based on the above-mentioned Muslims residing in Ireland should observe fasting as the Prophet, peace be upon him, said: “Commence your fasting when the Muslim group observes fasting and break it when the Muslim group breaks it.”
- Whoever did not observe fasting on Saturday 28th of June should make up a day after Ramadan.

May Allah accept your good deeds.