

Message from the Ulema Council of North America and the Committee for Crescent Observation

The Ulema Council of North America and the Committee for Crescent Observation Intl. confirms that the correct date of Eid al-Adha in N. America and most of The world is Friday, Jan. 21, 2005.

UCNA and CFCO both support ISNA and ICNA's decision to announce Eid on Friday, Jan. 21. It is what the Qura'n says, and how the Messenger (S) did. It is how the Ummah had been doing for the last fourteen hundred years.

There is no support in the Qura'n or the Sunnah that the Muslims all over the world have to follow Saudi fixed Hajj date for Eid al-Adha.

Eid al-Adha is fixed by the Hilal of D. Hijjah, as the Messenger (S) did from the second year of Hijra when he instituted the two Eids.

The Hilal of D. Hijja is like any other Hilal of any Islamic month. This year Saudi authorities have transgressed all boundaries. They declared Eid aL-Fitr on Nov. 13, 2004 and now Eid al-Adha on Jan. 20, 2005. In both cases they claim that a Hilal was seen by witnesses.

A Qadi must decide by the facts (Yaqin), and not by whims (Zann). In the evening of Jan. 10, 2005, like Nov.12, 2004 the INVISIBLE moon had set BEFORE the sunset. If not two but two million Saudi witnesses had claimed to have seen D. Hijja crescent AFTER the sunset on Jan. 10, 2005 they should be rejected. Whatever they saw was not Hilal, as there was no moon to see AFTER sunset. Moonset BEFORE the sunset is a FACT, and witness accounts are whims (Zann). The Qur'an makes it clear that Zann has no value when facts are established.

We support ISNA's stand to keep Friday, Jan. 21 as the day of Eid, though the Saudis against their earlier announcement changed Hajj date.

May Allah bless the Ummah for following His words. (Ameen)