



**Clarification: ICOB Position on the Conclusion of Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr
1446 AH**

Date: March 30, 2025

To: The Community of the Islamic Center of Bothell

Assalamu Alaykum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakaatuh

May Allah ﷻ accept our fasting, prayers, and worship during this blessed month of Ramadan. May He bless us with guidance, unity, and clarity in matters of faith.

I write to you regarding the important issue of the **Eid al-Fitr** announcement and the community's expectation of celebrating Eid based on reports of moon sightings from abroad—specifically from regions such as the **Middle East and Africa**.

While our Islamic Center has historically followed the principle of **global moonsighting**, this year we were presented with a unique situation: the **reported moon sightings were not scientifically authenticated**. Despite announcements from various countries, the **crescent moon was astronomically not visible** in those regions on the date in question.



Why Was Eid Not Declared at Our Center?

The Prophet ﷺ instructed us:

"Fast upon its sighting and break your fast upon its sighting. If it is hidden from you, complete thirty days." (Sahih Muslim)

This hadith emphasizes *actual sighting*—but that sighting must be **possible**, not merely declared. In this case, leading astronomical experts and global moon visibility charts (including those accepted by Muslim astronomers and moonsighting bodies worldwide) confirmed that the **crescent moon could not have been seen** with the naked eye or even with optical aid in those regions on the night of Saturday, March 29, 2025.

Hence, the **reported sightings contradict known laws of visibility and astronomy**—much like someone claiming to see the sun at midnight.

Our responsibility as a center is to act with **ilm (knowledge), aql (reason), and amaanah (trust)**. To celebrate Eid a day early based on weak or impossible reports risks invalidating our fasts, our ibaadah, and undermines trust in our process.

Global moonsighting is a valid and noble concept—but it should not be **blind acceptance**. It requires:

- Verification of sightings,
- Plausibility based on astronomical data,
- Consistency with principles of Islamic testimony.



This year, we chose to honor these principles by **completing 30 days of Ramadan.**

We understand that many community members were confused or even disappointed. Some may have celebrated Eid already. We make no judgment on anyone's intention—Allah ﷻ knows best and is Most Merciful.

However, as an institution entrusted with religious leadership, we must **act on knowledge and principle**, even if it is difficult in the short term. We are committed to **transparency, unity through understanding, and continual education.**

We hope this clarifies our position and renews your trust in the sincerity and integrity of our decisions.

With love, respect, and Dua,

Mufti Moosa Salie

Imaam, Islamic Center of Bothell



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Eid al-Fitr & Moon Sighting

1. Isn't global moonsighting about accepting reports from anywhere in the world?

Yes, but **those reports should be scientifically possible**. It is difficult to accept reports that contradict well-established laws of crescent visibility.

2. Why not just follow Saudi Arabia or other major Muslim countries?

Some countries use **pre-determined calendars**, and others may accept reports **without scientific verification**. While we respect them, our duty is to ensure correctness in our worship. Not every announcement should be accepted blindly.

3. Can science overrule a moon sighting?

Science does not overrule Shariah—but it **helps us determine** whether a sighting is **possible or not**. If multiple scientific authorities confirm that sighting was *impossible*, this aligns with the Shariah rule of rejecting **implausible testimony**.



4. Did we break unity by not celebrating Eid with others?

Unity is not just about dates—it is about principles, truth, and transparency. Celebrating Eid prematurely may invalidate the fasts of an entire community. That is a **greater harm** than differing in celebration dates.

5. Were there actual moon sightings in Canada?

Although some organizations circulated announcements that gave the impression the moon had been sighted within Canada, those reports were actually based on sightings from the Middle East or Africa, not from within Canada itself. There were no verified local sightings in Canada.

6. What if I already celebrated Eid based on earlier announcements?

You are not sinful, insha Allah. Allah rewards based on intention. However, we should use this experience to **learn, grow, and strive for more accurate practice in future years.**

7. How can we improve as a community for future Ramadans and Eids?

- Engage in moonsighting education prior to the month of Ramadan,
- Promote respectful dialogue and shared learning.
- Approach the Imaam or Shaikh personally for clarification.
- Avoid negative and unconstructive comments on social media which may lead to division and ill-feelings in the community.



- Engage in constructive dialogue within the greater community towards achieving a unified position.

8. Are other organizations wrong or sinful for celebrating Eid earlier based on their criteria?

Not necessarily. The matter of moon sighting is a **jurisprudential issue (mas'alah ijtihādiyyah)**, meaning that scholars and organizations may **legitimately differ** in their methodologies based on the legal principles they adopt. Some follow **pre-calculated calendars**, others rely on **testimony from specific countries**, and some prioritize **local or regional sighting**.

While we may **disagree** with their conclusion—especially if it seems to conflict with verified data—we do not declare their actions **invalid or sinful**, provided they acted based on scholarly guidance and sincere intention.

Our aim is not to pass judgment on others, but to **act responsibly based on what we believe is sound and trustworthy**. At the same time, we should maintain **respect, civility, and unity of heart** even when our calendars differ.