



MOONSIGHTING GUIDELINES

DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

RAMADAAN 1441 SIGHTING DETAILS

DATE	MOON AGE	MOONSET	MOONSET LAG
Thu, 23 Apr	13 Hr 47 Min	18:44	30 Min



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Introduction

Due to the nationwide lockdown, the Jamiatul Ulama KZN's moonsighting teams will not be able to take up their posts to sight the crescent of the next Islamic month. We therefore request those Muslims who are capable, to conduct the moonsighting from their residences, while keeping within the law. The following pages list requirements, procedures, and advices for conducting a moonsighting.

From here on, the crescent will be referred to, using the Arabic word "Hilaal".

Is it necessary to sight the Hilaal?

Yes. The start of Islamic months is determined by sighting the Hilaal. Astronomical calculations which prove the moon's presence in the sky cannot be used to declare the start of an Islamic month. The matter is not about the existence of the Hilaal. It's about sighting and witnessing it.

Criteria for a valid sighting

A sighting needs to meet a few Shar`i requirements to be accepted and enforced on a national level:

- The moonsighting must be conducted after sunset on the 29th day of the Islamic month
- The required number of people must be present to witness the Hilaal

Criteria of the witness

The witness must be a Muslim who is upright, sane, mature, and sighted (able to see).

Number of witnesses

The testimony of two males, or one male and two females will suffice. This is on condition that they possess the afore-mentioned qualities and they testify to seeing the Hilaal.

What should we look for?

The Hilaal is an extremely thin, faint crescent which appears low in the western horizon on the night of sighting. It follows the trajectory of the sun closely.

Observe and take note of the setting point of the sun. The Hilaal will set close to the area on the horizon where the sun sets.

The Hilaal can easily be mistaken for other objects in the sky. Observe the sky attentively and, before taking further action, be sure that the object that you are observing actually is the Hilaal.

The Hilaal could be in one of the following orientations:



We sighted the Hilaal. What next?

- Take note of the exact time of the sighting and the orientation of the Hilaal. If possible, take a picture of the Hilaal as well.
- If enough witnesses are present, they should fill out a **Hilaal Shahaadah Form** wherein they will fill their details and sign, testifying that they've seen the

Hilaal. The form can be downloaded from www.jamiat.org.za ([click here to download](#)).

- Please fill in the form carefully and try not to omit any important details.
- WhatsApp the filled form to the contacts listed at the bottom of the form, along with your pictures.
- **Do not** broadcast your sighting results to anyone else. Your testimony of sighting still needs to be verified and accepted.

The start of the new Islamic month will then be declared by the United Ulama Council of South Africa (UUCSA).

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