

CRESCENT SIGHTING GUIDELINE – Ramadhan 1428 (Wednesday 12th September, 2007)

BRISBANE

I. Important Data

- i) Time of Sunset: 17:39
- ii) Time of Moonset: 18:17

2. Instructions

- i) Arrive on location no later than 17:30.
- ii) Locate the sun position (do not look into the sun directly. In addition to it being hazardous, it will affect your sighting of the crescent), and follow it to its sunset position at 17:39.
- iii) Immediately find a *line of reference* from your position to this sunset point. This position should not be lost, as it will be the only guide to accurate viewing of the crescent once the sun has completely set. Use a building, a particular tree, lamp post or like things towards the horizon, and an identifying mark or object where you are standing. These two objects form your line of reference to the sunset.
- iv) Train your eye into the horizon as the sun glare recedes.
- v) At 17:45 hold a measuring ruler (with centimetres marked on it), vertically at your arms length (differing arm lengths is negligible) with the zero on the point of sunset on the horizon. Locate a point in the sky corresponding to 7cm on the ruler, vertically up from the point of the sun. **This is the vicinity where the moon is at 17:45.**
- vi) Inform all people of this general vicinity, by giving directions in relation to definable objects as guidance for coordinates. Use cloud patches as a reference point as well, if it helps. Remember not to lose your line of reference.
- vii) The moon will be setting diagonally to the left from this point, left of the point of sunset, until 18:17. To get an idea of where the moon will set, hold the ruler at arm's length horizontally, with the 0 corresponding with the point of sunset. Measure approximately 6cm left of the sunset- this is the point the moon will set at approximately 18:17. Scan the sky from 17:45 til 18:17 from the topmost point identified as per point (v) above, down to the horizon, defined by the point of moonset, 6cm left of the sunset.
- viii) If you are unable to identify the crescent by 18:05, it is highly unlikely that it will be sighted from your location. Make arrangements for everybody to pray Maghrib from 18:05, with only those following the Hanafi Madhab to continue seeking the crescent until 18:17. (The currency for the time of Maghrib for the Shafi'i and Maliki followers, end approximately 30 minutes after sunset).
- ix) Inform me via text SMS (0412 198729) of the results of sighting at your location.

Yours Sincerely,

Afroz Ali
Founder & President
For:
al – GHAZZALI Centre
for Islamic Science & Human Development