

WHY EID UL ADHA CELEBRATED ON TWO DIFFERENT DAYS IN US ??

A large of Muslims celebrated Eid ul Adha on Wed. Jan, 11, 06 and a considerable number on Tuesday Jan, 10, 06. The dream of celebrating Eid on one day was shattered again and there is no hope of it in near future as well. The reason is obvious.

The Hilal committees in different cities in America declare the Lunar months by actual sighting of new moon and accordingly celebrate Eid ul Fitr on 1st of Shawwal and Eid ul Adha on 10th of Zul hijja. But policy of ISNA who claims to be the nationwide organization (it is somewhat true too) is that they follow the sighting of moon for the first 11 lunar months but for 12th month i.e Zul hijja they follow Saudi Arabia and they declare Eid ul Adha according to the declaration of Saudi. This year (2006) they did and announced Eid ul Adha on Tues. 10. 2006. The surprising fact is that they are not firm in their policy. Because last year (2005) Saudi declared Eid ul Adha on Thursday Jan, 20. 2005. But ISNA did not follow and declared Eid ul Adha on Friday Jan, 21. 2005. This year Saudis declared Eid ul Adha on Tuesday Jan, 10, 2006 and ISNA followed. But all the Hilal committees of US declared Wed. Jan, 11, 2006 as the Eid day on the basis that the moon was not sighted on Dec. 31. 2005. According to the information we got those who follow ISNA held Eid prayer on Jan, 10 2006 at Mosque Foundation in Bridgeview, Hanging Garden Banq! Yet in Chicago, Purple Hotel in Lincolnwood and at Bosnian Mosque in North Brook. And the majority of Muslims prayed on Wed. Jan, 11. 2006 at all Masajids and centers in Chicago and suburbs including Central Eid Committee of Chicago. There is a consensus that Saudis declaration of lunar months are not reliable. What is the basis and criteria of their declaration is not

known to many of us in US. This year astronomers report for the first moon of Zul Hijja was that on Dec. 31. 2005 moon can only be seen in South America, South Africa and Polynesian Islands. There is a slim chance of its visibility in North America but it is very difficult. The report further says that it can not be seen at all in Asia, Europe, Middle East. However, surprisingly Saudi declared Jan. 1, 2006 as first of Zul Hijja and Eid ul Adha on Jan 10. 2006, which means that they saw the moon on Dec. 31. 2005. BUT HOW? , when there was no moon on the Saudi horizon! on. In North America and Canada all the Hilal committees announced " moon was not sighted anywhere in North America and Canada on Dec. 31. 2005 therefore 1st of Zul Hijja will be on Jan., 2. 2006 and Eid ul Adha will be on Wed. Jan, 11, 2006." In Pakistan , India and Bangladesh Eid was celebrated on Jan, 11. 2006. The Hilal committees in different cities of N. America and Canada declare the first of lunar month strictly on the basis of actual sighting of the first moon and they are persistent in their policy. But ISNA has no consistency. Some times they follow Saudis and sometimes they follow hilal sighting. Last year (2005) Saudi celebrated Eid on Thursday, Jan. 20, 2005 but ISNA followed hilal sighting and celebrated Eid on Friday, Jan . 21. 2005. But this year they followed Saudis. **MCC of Chicago is also showing the same pattern of ISNA. Last year MCC followed ISNA and celebrated Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha according to their declaration. But this year they deviate and did not follow ISNA but followed Hilal committee. Council of Islamic organization of Chicago is also following the same pattern. They followed ISNA last year but not this year. The chairman of the Council reported on**

Emails that he is getting lot of Phone calls and E.Mails that people wanted to know the decision of Council. He replied " We have not made any decision yet" This was on 6th of Jan, 2006. Probably he was fixed in the two different decisions made one by ISNA and the other by Hilal committees. And waited to see where does the majority go. *And Council this year did not follow ISNA and followed Hilal committee and the chairman lead the Eid prayer in Purple Hotel in Lincolnwood on Wed. Jan. 11. 2006.* Muslims have come

to US from all over the world and they brought their own traditions from back home and they do not want to compromise. Muslims from sub continent always followed the sighting of the moon and declared Eid ul Adha on 10th Zul Hijja and the muslims from Middle East always followed the declaration of Saudia for Eid ul Fitr and very strictly for Eid ul Adha. In this situation it is better not to make any fuss out of it and let the things go on as is. Thank you.

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