

٢٩ ذو القعدة ١٤٤٤
29 Dhu al-Qa'dah
18 June 2023
Sunday يوم الأحد

Historic visit to Tumair

Statement of UK Delegation Visit to Tumair, Saudi Arabia - Day in the Desert

Praise be to Allah. It was an extraordinary experience. We received incredible hospitality from everyone in Tumair. The purpose of our visit was specifically to participate in and observe the moon sighting of Dhu al-Hijjah, as per the methodology employed in Saudi Arabia.

We arrived in Tumair on Sunday 18 June 2023 at 1pm ate and rested in the ancestral home of the Al-Barghash family.



We also had the opportunity to see their century-old date orchards.



This family is renowned for sighting the moon and has a historical track record of doing so.

Later, at around 5pm, we proceeded to the official location for moon sighting.



Unfortunately, none of us from the UK delegation were able to sight the moon. We also attempted to use optical aids and were unable to see the moon.



However, two brothers of the Al-Barghash family declared they sighted the moon at 6:48pm, two minutes before sunset. We were with them and were unable to sight the moon in the direction we were being directed to, not with the naked eye nor with optical aids. They were not using any optical aids.



Furthermore, the atmospheric conditions were not favourable, with a dark layer of sand haze on the horizon that obscured the setting sun, which would make the sighting of the moon difficult under normal circumstances.

Around 40 people were present at the observatory, including two Astronomers from KACST who set up a telescope. They showed us other stars like Venus, etc.

They informed us that the moon would not be visible that night, as it was only 5-6 degrees above the horizon, and the weather conditions were also not favourable.

A television crew was also present. They showed live on TV the events as they took place and even showed us as people of UK came to observe the Hilal.

There were two Supreme Court Judges who were present in the ground floor room (beneath the viewing platform) who accepted the testimony of the two brothers and declared the beginning of the new month based on that. The two judges were not themselves present on the viewing deck.

Most people started to leave the viewing platform 10 minutes after sunset. However, the four of us remained on the rooftop for half an hour, diligently searching for the moon until its time of moonset. We did not sight the crescent and nor did the vast majority of the people present. Some of those present were surprised to learn that some Muslims of the UK follow Saudi Arabia in moon-sighting.

We intend to share a detailed account of our trip to any Masjid or organisation of the UK, enabling them to understand how the system in Saudi Arabia operates.

We would like to thank the Al-Bargash family for hosting us and for their hospitality and generosity. Allah Almighty grants us all the true understanding and unites us.

We travelled with clear hearts and clear minds as independent observers with the sole intention of understanding the system and meeting the very people who observe the Crescent every month.

We had no intention of making this public statement, but because people are spreading inaccurate information, we felt it was necessary now to do so. Allah Almighty knows our intentions, and we did this for his pleasure and no one else.

Our host ‘Abdullah al-Bargash made a lovely 6 minute video which could be seen on his twitter account. You can hear the beautiful Adhān immediately after sunset and see the skies of Tumair.

<https://twitter.com/algno2000/status/1670457899787640832?s=20>

Sajid bin Ahmed
Abdul Aziz
Uthman ibn Arshad
Muhammad Sheraz

Dated: 27th June 2023

