

22. RUET E HILAL COMMITTEE(s)

The **Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee** of Pakistan is the country's official body ***responsible for announcing the sighting of the new crescent moon to regulate the Islamic Hijri calendar***; it operates under the federal Ministry of Religious Affairs.

- Established in 1974 through a simple **National Assembly resolution**; for nearly 50 years, it functioned without a solid statutory foundation, leading to intense parliamentary scrutiny regarding its constitutional standing.
- **In 2023**, the PDM government got passed **Pakistan Ruet-e-Hilal Act** to formalize its legal mandate. The direct annual federal budget assigned to the committee ranges from **Rs. 3 million to Rs. 5 million plus** (about) **Rs. 2 million per critical session**.
- **In financial terms**, the Committee deserves APPRECIATION that its **21 members do not receive permanent government salaries**. *The funding strictly covers direct operational expenditures including high-profile committee meetings, travel logistics, and lodging across regional capitals.*
- **Ruet-e-Hilal Committee** ensures that major religious events like Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha, and Ashura are celebrated on the **same day nationwide** – and that is only purpose it is made to minimize public confusion driven by competitive private announcements.

ONGOING PUBLIC DEBATE since 1947:

In Pakistan, this Public Debate remains split since first day. While many appreciate the preservation of religious tradition, ***modern critics argue that Pakistan could save time and public funds by transitioning entirely to an open astronomical calendar system.***

- **Ruet-e-Hilal Committee** ensures that major religious events like Ramadan, Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Adha, and Ashura are celebrated on the **same day nationwide** – and that is only purpose it is made – however, since the country's birth in 1947, ***Pakistanis always celebrate at least TWO Eids come what may.***
- ***The reason is that their EID is NOT at all related with moon-sights.*** It's ONE COMMUNITY's inner GRUDGE for the other COMMUNITY & *vice-versa*. **Both Community-heads' INCOME & BUSINESS depend upon their DISLIKES, HATRED and ANIMOSITIES.**
- The fact remains that the people from Charsadda, Mardan etc following ***AHL-HADITH Fiqh*** etc will celebrate ***Eid with SAUDI ARABIA***. On the other side, the SUNNIS (all sub-sects collectively) will celebrate Eid NEXT-DAY; details of later developed '**Masjid Qasim Khan Committee**' in Peshawar is referred.
- Thus, **MOON-SIGHT is only the 'RASM'**, the Sunni Muslims perform; who sees actually the moon – NO ONE – only dramas we perform.

- The same phenomenon is seen in the Muslim Communities settled in Europe. *The Muslims from the whole world in UK & Europe celebrate EID with Saudi Arabia – taking Holy Kaa’ba as their prime guide* – BUT SUNNI MUSLIMS from Pakistan always celebrate their EID next day to Saudi Arabia’s festival. In UK & EU, there is no DRAMA of moon-sight officially done or played – all they follow Science-based Calendars – *BUT SUNNI Pakistanis’ Eid in UK & EU will be with Pakistani SUNNIs.*

THUS, PAKISTANI GOVTS will also WITHDRAW THEIR BACKING FROM RUET-E HILAL COMMITTEE(S) – TO COME AT PAR WITH DEVELOPED NATIONS.

LET THE SUNNI-MUSLIMS, OR RUET-E HILAL COMMITTEE(S) & THEIR MEMBERS CONTINUE WITH THEIR OLD-TRADITIONS WHATEVER THEY LIKE BUT THE GOVTS WILL NOT BE A PART OF SUCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- The govt-expenditure will also be saved (Rs: 2 million per MEETING) – though are meager amounts for govts; NOT AS THEY SPEND ON **COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY [CII]** AND **FEDERAL SHARIAT COURT [FSC]**, but after all it is **TAX PAYERS’ MONEY.**
 - **Pakistan Ruet-e-Hilal Act (2023) has NO PRACTICAL utility – so will be repealed in due course of time.**

GOVTS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE RELIGIOUS RITUALS & TRADITIONS OF ANY SECT OR FACTION whatsoever.