

Description of 'Jam'a Azeem'

Q: Hil-17: I have heard that the Ridhaa Khan theologians were not satisfied with the announcement of Eidul Adhaa made by the Hilaal committee of Rander. They state that when the sky is clear, there needs to be a 'Jam'a Azeem? a large crowd? of people to witness the moon, whereas here were only ten to twelve people. Please explain the definition of 'Jam'a Azeem? a large crowd with references and indicate the number, if any.

Answer: According to the most accepted opinion, there is no specified number of people who need to witness the moon when the sky is clear. There, however, needs to be that many people who are enough to satisfy the Qaadhi. The same is stated even in the book Bihaare Shari'ah (Vol.5 Pg. 15). which is relied upon by people associated with Ridha Khan.

In the situation we found ourselves in, we were satisfied with the witnesses :lo were students from Daarul Uloom Ashrafiyyah in Rander, students from jamia Islaamiyyah Dhabel, people from Wahaaraka (amongst whom was an Aalim) and people from Baruch as well. The announcement was made upon these testimonies. And Allaah knows best what is most correct.

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