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MUFTI OF AUSTRALIA

مَكْتَبُ سَمَاجَةِ مُفْتَى أَسْتْرَالِيَا  
الدُّكْتُورُ إِبْرَاهِيمُ أَبُو مُحَمَّدٍ

### **In the Name of ALLAH, the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate**

Statement From The Office Of His Eminence The Grand Mufti Of Australia

Subject: Blessed Fast Breaking Celebration For This Year 1435 Hijri,  
2014 C.E.

Praise be to the Lord of the worlds, and God's blessings and peace be upon the  
most honourable of Prophets and Messengers

Dear brothers and sisters, in the lifetime of every nation, there are a set  
number of principles that lead to the willing submission of its people to the will  
of the creator, ALLAH (SWT). This submission has portrayed this exemplary  
model of the elevation of the human will above some basic necessities and  
desires. A worthwhile elevation, even if the price is sacrificing food, drink and  
intimate relations during a defined period of time.

This is one of the inner dimensions of fasting, and its role in elevating humanity, and the ability of humans to make a positive change to humanity and the surrounding environment.

Dear brothers and sisters; as we come to the festivity of Eid after completing our acts of worship ; our celebration is not complete by the events of violence and state terrorism that are happening at the global stage, and especially the crimes of systematic genocide against the innocent people of Gaza by the hands of the brutal Zionist regime. This regime is systematically murdering children, women and unarmed civilians in their own homes. This war machine is using the most destructive and illegal weapons such as white phosphorus and depleted uranium. . This enemy is practicing the most evil Nazi forms of genocide against innocent Muslims. We acknowledge that there is a similarity in what is happening in Iraq, Palestine, and Syria, in their being the same war machine, the same evil plans and the same devil in the background planning and playing

The Muslim community in Australia, amidst the celebration of the blessed month of Ramadan, has felt the grief at the loss of 298 innocent lives, including 80 children, and 36 Australians on the Malaysian aircraft MH17.

This grief is multiplied due to the horrendous crimes being committed against the innocent people of Gaza. Up until the time of writing this statement, the number of victims reached 1000 martyrs, including 208 children, and 6000 injured civilians, including 1561 children.

His eminence the Grand Mufti of Australia offers his heartfelt condolences to the families of the MH17 Australian victims, he also offers his heartfelt condolences to the families of the women, children and the innocent people of Palestine. The Grand Mufti demands the international community and the world's conscience to bring those forward who have committed these war crimes in Ukraine and in Gaza to justice.

The Grand Mufti wishes to condemn in the harshest possible terms these acts of aggression, injustice, racism and double standards. The Grand Mufti also warns the international community against the danger of racism and new forms of Nazism practiced by specific countries that consider themselves above the law, daily committing crimes without being punished or even being condemned.



In this atmosphere, the Muslim mind should be mindful not to make issues out of minor juristic differences while disregarding the purposeful events that aim to stab the religion in the heart. We have drawn attention before that the issue of sighting the crescent in determining the beginning and end of Ramadan has been a controversial matter in the past and the present. We also drew attention to the fact that the concept of sighting is wide and includes visual as well as scientific sighting with machines and astronomical calculation. The amount of sighting required for practicing the ritual of fasting is the certain knowledge of the start of the month, irrespective of the means of fulfilling that knowledge, whether visual sighting or nominal sighting.

Some people say that the beginning of the month is verified by just the birth of the new moon, as it is born in one moment for the whole world. Others add certainty of the moon setting after sunset; others claim multiple sighting, while others still claim unified sighting, and that once the sighting is verified in one place every area joining that place in part of the night should also fast. All these claims can be argued, accepted or rejected. Yet all the claimants would be rewarded for their efforts to find out.

We tried to join everyone to one methodology and, thank God, we managed to join the majority after extended meetings, discussions and arguments among the Imams and scholars continuing for days. The majority have agreed to:

**First:** On Sunday, 27 July, 2014, the new moon occurred (8:42 am) in Sydney, (6:42 am) in Perth and sets (23 minutes) after sunset in Sydney; and sets (28 minutes) after sunset in Perth. This time is sufficient for visual sighting if weather conditions allow it. This is confirmed sighting even if visual sighting was not possible.

**Second:** Sunday 27 July, 2014 is the last day of the blessed month of Ramadan for the Hijri year 1435, and that Monday 28 July, 2014 is the first day of the month of Shawal and is the first day of Fast Breaking Celebration (Eidul-Fitr)

**Third:** His Eminence the Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr Ibrahim Abu Mohamed, and the Imams in the meeting, emphasise the necessity of avoiding involving the common Muslims, particularly the young Muslims, in controversial issues around which even the scholars are not in common agreement. It is unacceptable intellectually nor traditionally for such differences to create disunity.

Finally; we emphasise our unshaken respect for all Muslim scholars and Imams, whether they agree or disagree with us, and we respect their points of views and fully understand the reasons for those views.

His Eminence the Grand Mufti of Australia and the Muslim scholars wish all Muslims in Australia to preserve the validity and confirmation of their fasting by continuing obedience to Allah throughout the remaining months of the year, and to pray to Allah for their brothers and sisters in Gaza, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Yemen and other Muslim countries to ease their difficulties and suffering, bring victory to their wars, and peace and security to extend throughout Australia and the rest of the world.

Blessed celebration, acceptable acts of worship, and happy New Year.

Prof. Ibrahim Abu Mohamed  
The Grand Mufti of Australia