

Gilani Research Foundation is a not for profit public service project to provide social science research to students, academia, policy makers and concerned citizens in Pakistan and across the globe.

Gilani Research Foundation is headed by Dr. Ijaz Shafi Gilani who pioneered the field of opinion polling in Pakistan and established Gallup Pakistan in 1980. Currently Dr. Gilani, who holds a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and has taught at leading universities in Pakistan and abroad, is Chairman of Gallup Pakistan.

Eid Moon and Official Moon Sighting Committee; 66 % Approved and 30 % Opposed the Moon Sighting Decision: GILANI POLL /GALLUP PAKISTAN

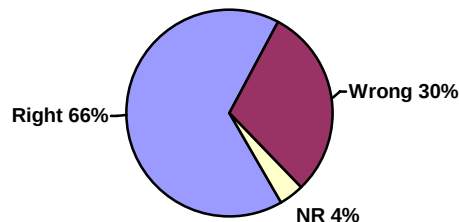
Islamabad, October 12, 2009

While after every Ramadan, there is confusion about whether the next month's moon has been sighted or not, this year the moon sighting controversy was a kind of its own. The North Frontier was engulfed in a heated debate between the officials of the moon sighting committee, Ruhat-e-Hilal, the politicians and the public. To find out public's stance about the committee's decision, a Gilani Research Foundation survey was carried out by Gallup Pakistan shortly after Eid of 2009. According to this recent survey, it was noticed that two thirds of all Pakistanis (66%) believed the committee's decision to be fair this year where as 30% said it was wrong and 4% gave no response.

A nationally representative sample of men and women from across the country were asked “*..In your view was the decision regarding Eid moon taken this year by the official moon-sighting committee, known as Ruhat-e-Hilal, correct or wrong?*” While a majority (66%) believed it was correct, a significant 30% opposed the decision taken by the committee regarding sighting of Eid moon. The remaining 4% of the respondents gave no response.

The findings of this survey reveal that there was a split in opinion of the respondents from NWFP regarding the decision of Eid moon by the official moon sighting committee; While 52% supported the committee's decision, just as many 45% believed the moons sighting judgement this year was incorrect.

“..In your view was the decision regarding Eid moon taken this year by the official moon-sighting committee, known as Ruhat-e-Hilal, correct or wrong?”



Source: Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan,
the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com; www.gallup.com.pk)

The study was released by Gilani foundation and carried out by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The latest survey was carried out among a sample of 2610 men and women in rural and urban areas of all four provinces of the country, during September 2009. Error margin is estimated to be approximately $\pm 2-3$ per cent at 95% confidence level.

Gallup Pakistan proposes that its poll results be attributed as Gilani Poll conducted by Gallup Pakistan, the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. This is to distinguish our polls from polls on Pakistan sometimes released by other organizations not part of Gallup International Association (www.gallup-international.com) and referred to by the same title. Also please see necessary Disclaimer on our website (www.gallup.com.pk). Gallup Pakistan takes responsibility for only its own polls on Pakistan.

For more survey data on social and other issues see website www.gallup.com.pk

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