The second question of Fatwa no. 3594

Q 2: What is the ruling on a man who started Sawm (Fasting) after the confirmed sighting of the new moon of Ramadan in his country, then he traveled to another country where he witnessed the twenty-eighth of Ramadan but the people of that country sighted the new moon of Shawwal. Should he offer with them Salat-ul-'Eid (the Festival Prayer) although he only fasted twenty-eight days?

A: The decisive factor in beginning the Sawm of Ramadan is seeing its new moon at the sighting location and direction while present in one's country. The same applies to ending the Sawm of Ramadan; the decisive factor is sighting the new moon of Shawwal in the country to which one has traveled. Accordingly, one should end the Sawm and offer Salat-ul-'Eid with the people of the country where the new moon of Shawwal has been confirmed to be sighted while staying among them. But one should make up for the missed days of Sawm, so that the total number of fasted days is twenty-nine days, because the lunar month is either twenty-nine days or thirty days (i.e. it cannot be twenty-eight days).

May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and Companions!

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Source: Fatwas of the Permanent Committee

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