

In the Name of Allah, Most Merciful

Question regards praying Jumuah in a place other than a masjid

Question:

A local brother who follows the *Shafie madhab* requires a *hukm* with regards praying *Jumuah salaah* at his work place and its validity. He is due to begin work on Friday in a warehouse which is located in the countryside in a remote area of Milton Keynes. There is no permission for people who are not employees to enter the building. The workers have 1 hour lunch allocation and although they can leave the building it is unlikely they will be able to get to the nearest *masjid* to pray *Jumu'ah* in the lunch break due to distance.

There is currently a *Jumu'ah salaah* held in the premises by some brothers who follow the *Hanafi madhab* and who are working with him. They pray in an area allocated for prayer which is attended by the workers on the site although there is neither a set time for normal congregational *salaah* or a permanent *Imam*.

Should he pray *Salaatul Dhuhur* or *Jumu'ah salaah* with them? Should he pray *Salaatul Dhuhur* after praying *Jumu'ah* with them?

Jazakullah khair. Please remember us in your *dua*. *Wa assalam*

Reply

Alhamdu-Lillaah, Wa As-Salaatu was-salaamu a'ala rasoolu-Allah.

The place that you describe doesn't constitute the conditions for *Jumu'ah salaah*. This is because, the place isn't a *masjid*, where the five prayers are established. Also, being in the countryside, it also isn't a town or village so to speak. Furthermore, in the *Shafiee madhab* there must be 40 people who fulfill the conditions of *Jumuah* to attend, that is muslims, adult, sane, male, resident, able, (free) and clear of any restricting factors.

When the conditions are not met, then he prays *dhuhr* instead. If the distance is a journey distance of 50 miles, then he can shorten the prayer any way, and that is a further excuse for not making up the *Jumu'ah*; although it remains that missing *Jumu'ah* in such a way should be restricted to the minimum, and it isn't a 'healthy' state to remain in; but I understand that necessity plays a role in finding the appropriate job and each person should assess this for himself.

Should he pray with them or alone? I suggest he prays with them their *Jumu'ah* as a *nafl* (to avoid confusion/friction) and then to pray *dhuhr* alone.

I hope this clarifies the situation.

Wa Allahu A'lam

Written on Jumu'ah 27/8/2004.