THESIS ABSTRACT □ MA □ PH.D

Thesis Title: The effect of Ramadan on crime rates in Saudi Arabia

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Research problem: This thesis attempts to find out the rates of crime in the month of Ramadan compared with other months. Furthermore, it attempts to discover what types of crimes increase and what types of crimes decrease, what times of day or night they increase or decrease and what regions have the highest or lowest rates of crime in Ramadan. Finally, it seeks to identify social categories of the population that are more inclined to commit crimes in Ramadan and other months.

Research importance: The scientific important of this research comes from the fact that it is one of the pioneer Arabic studies that dealt with the effect of Ramadan on the rates of crime in K.S.A. Thus, the scientific importance of the research originates from its finding of the effect of Ramadan on the variance of crime rates between Ramadan and other months in Saudi Arabia.

Research objectives: This research aims to:
1- Identify the amount of crimes in K.S.A in Ramadan in comparison with the other months.
2- Identify different types of crimes that decrease or increase in Ramadan in comparison with the other months.
- Distinguish the common times in Ramadan when crimes increase or decrease in comparison with the other months.
- Compare rates of crime in Ramadan with other months in different regions of the kingdom.
- Identify social categories (according to age, sex and nationality) that commit more crimes in Ramadan and other months.

**Research Hypotheses / Questions:**
The main question of this research is that:
What is the effect of Ramadan on the rates of crime in K.S.A?
There are other questions derived from the main one:
1. What are the rates of crime committed in Ramadan in comparison with the other months?
2. What are the types of crimes that decrease or increase in Ramadan?
3. What is the time when these crimes increase in Ramadan?
4. Where do crimes increase in Ramadan in comparison with the other months?
5. What are the most categories (according to age, sex and nationality) that commit crimes in Ramadan in comparison with the other months?

**Research methodology:**
According to the nature of the study and its main aim, this study relied on the descriptive technique using secondary data statistics that describe the phenomena. The data were obtained from the Research Center for Crime Prevention. Crime statistics represent ٦١٢ months for years from ٦٠٤١ to ٣٢٤١ (٦٨٩ - ٣٠٠٢).

**Main Results:**
1. The mean of crimes against morality in Ramadan is less than the mean of these crimes in the other months. However, the mean difference is not significant at ٥٠،٠ alpha level.
2. The mean of alcohol drinking crimes is significantly lower in Ramadan in comparison with other months. Alcohol drinking crimes decrease in Ramadan very substantially.
3. The mean robbery crimes increase in Ramadan in comparison with the other months. However, the mean difference is not significant at ٥٠،٠ alpha level.
4. The mean of interpersonal violence (personal assault) decreases in Ramadan in comparison with the other months. However, the mean difference is not significant at ٥٠،٠ alpha level.