



B1 Applications of Forensic Astronomy in Turkey

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand applications of forensic astronomy.

Frequently, astronomy proves to be an important contributory science to criminalistic investigations.

Crime scene investigation on the date and at hours calculated by forensic astronomers is the only means to ascertain whether conditions of visibility at the time of a crime are consistent with the information obtained from victims, eye witnesses and the alleged assailants. During the crime scene investigations, meteorologic conditions at the time of the alleged crime should also be taken into consideration.

The forensic astronomer using degree of longitude and latitude of the scene as well as data from regular astronomical almanacs, calculates the moon phase, the time of moonrise and moonset, the time of sunrise and sunset, so determines the nights on which the same lunar illumination as in the night of the event will be present

In Turkey with its almost wholly muslimic population, persons involved in a criminal case sometimes report the time of occurrence in association with the muezzine's call for prayer. In such cases, forensic astronomers have to calculate the exact hour of the praying call at the time of the alleged crime.

Criminalistics, Astronomy, Sun and Moon