

Pilgrims pray on peak day of Hajj in shadow of coronavirus



Riyadh, July 30 (RHC)-- The global coronavirus pandemic has cast a shadow over every aspect of this year's pilgrimage, which last year drew 2.5 million Muslims from across the world to Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Muhammad delivered his final sermon nearly 1,400 years ago.

Only a very limited number of pilgrims were allowed to take part in the Hajj amid numerous restrictions to limit the potential spread of the coronavirus.

The Saudi government has not released a final figure on the number of Hajj pilgrims this year, but has said anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000 would be taking part.

Pilgrims are traveling in small groups of 20, following strict guidelines around social distancing, have undergone tests for the COVID-19 disease and were in quarantine before the Hajj.

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