

**Title:** Proposal to encode Arabic Combining Alef Overlay used in Quran published in Libya

**Action:** For consideration by UTC and ISO/IEC JTC1/SC2/WG2

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**Date:** 15-Feb-2022


## Introduction

Quran published in Libya uses a special superscript Alef mark which is written in different way when it comes on a Lam, where as the same orthography uses regular shape for superscript Alef also. Therefore I suggest that this special superscript Alef should be encoded separately. This proposal replaces [L2/21-204](#)

## Requests

The author requests the encoding of Arabic Combining Alef Overlay

## Character name and shape

Shape	Code Point	Name
	U+10EFC	ARABIC COMBINING ALEF OVERLAY

## Properties

The main character properties should be as follows:

```
10EFC;ARABIC COMBINING ALEF OVERLAY;Mn;0;NSM;;;;;N;;;;;
```

## Combining Mark justification

The reason why I am suggesting this character as a combining mark is because it can have a madda on top of it, so when we type Lam + Fatha + Combining Alef Overlay + Madda then it'll be easy to place the Madda on top of Combining Alef Overlay. And this same combination is used when regular superscript alef is used. In the situation where regular superscript alef is used, all marks typed after superscript alef go on top of it so same logic can easily be applied on combining alef overlay.

If we encode Lam and Combining Alef Overlay as a pre-composed atomic character, then the typing sequence will be Lam with Combining Alef Overlay + Fatha + Madda and then it'll be difficult to know which mark should be placed on top of Lam and which one should be on top of the Combining Alef Overlay.

## Rendering the word “Allah”

In these Quranic traditions Fatha is used in the spelling of Allah instead of a superscript Alef. And regular superscript alef (with and without madda) is also used with Lam. Therefore no special handling is needed to render the word Allah as this new Combining Alef Overlay is not used in its spelling.

## Suggestion for the Entry in NamesList.txt

10EFC ARABIC COMBINING ALEF OVERLAY

\* a vowel sign equivalent to 0670, only used to annotate lam in Quranic Arabic in Libya

## Figures and comparison with Arabic Superscript Alef (0670)

In the following images we can see that where ever regular superscript Alef is used with Lam in the Quran published in Saudi Arab (figure 2 and 4), Libyan Orthography has this special style superscript Alef which is like a strike-through line (figure 1 and 3). Therefore I would suggest that we should consider this character as a different mark but not an individual letter.

The regular superscript Alef can also have a Madda on top of it (figure 4), and similarly this Combining Alef Overlay can also have Madda on top of it (figure 3).

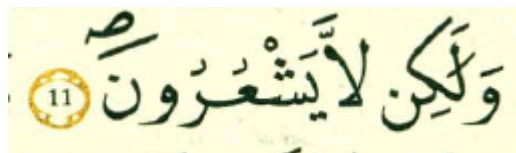


Figure 1

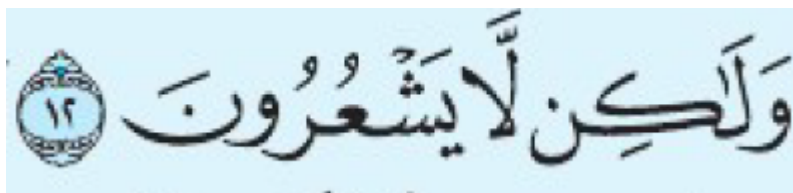


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

## Interaction with other marks

The Combining Alef Overlay is used either without any mark or with Madda on top of it. Therefore it should handle all types of Madda properly (U+0653, U+06E4, U+089C, U+089E and U+089F)

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Debbie Anderson of the Script Encoding Initiative/Universal Scripts Project for her help. I am also thankful to Benjamin Yang and Roozbeh Pournader for their valuable input for this proposal.

## Reference

1. Holy Quran – published by General Authority of Awqaf and Zakat Affairs / Libya, 2010.

<https://karachvi.com/quran/mushaf-al-jamahiriya.pdf>

2. Proposal to encode Quranic marks used in Quran published in Libya (Narration of Qaloon with script Aldani)

<https://unicode.org/L2/L2016/16044-aldani-with-cmts.pdf>

**ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2  
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS  
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646<sup>1</sup>PT**

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from HTU<http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html> UTH for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from HTU<http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html> UTH.

See also HTU<http://std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html> UTH for latest *Roadmaps*.

**A. Administrative**

1. **Title:** Proposal to encode Arabic Combining Alef Overlay used in Quran published in Libya

2. Requester's name: Lateef Sagor Shaikh

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): Individual Contribution

4. Submission date: 8/11/2021

5. Requester's reference (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

6. Choose one of the following:

This is a complete proposal:

(or) More information will be provided later:

**B. Technical – General**

1. Choose one of the following:

a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):

Proposed name of script: \_\_\_\_\_

b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:

Name of the existing block: Supplementary Multilingual Plane

2. Number of characters in proposal: 1

3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):

A-Contemporary <input type="checkbox"/>	B.1-Specialized (small collection) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B.2-Specialized (large collection) <input type="checkbox"/>	
C-Major extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	D-Attested extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	E-Minor extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic <input type="checkbox"/>	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? Yes

a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document? Yes

b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? Yes

5. Fonts related:

a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? Lateef Sagor Shaikh

b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): Lateef Sagor Shaikh lateef\_sagar@yahoo.com

6. References:

a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? Yes

b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? Yes

7. Special encoding issues:

Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)? Yes

See the section titled Character name and shape

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at HTU<http://www.unicode.org> UTH for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database ( <http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/> ) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

<sup>1</sup> Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

**C. Technical - Justification**

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES explain	No
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? If YES, with whom? If YES, available relevant documents:	No
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Reference:	Yes <i>Muslims in Pakistan, There are around 18 Million Muslims in Pakistan</i>
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare) Reference:	Quranic <i>The proposed mark is very common in Quran published in Pakistan</i>
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? If YES, where? Reference:	Yes <i>Most of recent published Qurans use this character</i>
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? If YES, is a rationale provided? If YES, reference:	Yes Yes <i>Character could be kept with their counterparts in Arabic block</i>
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	Yes
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? If YES, reference:	No
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? If YES, reference: Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? If YES, reference:	Combining Yes <i>The character is combining, as can be seen in samples</i> No
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	No
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? If YES, reference:	No