

# ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION of NORTH AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, April 4, 2024

## **IONA Masjid and Learning Center Cancels Eid al-Fitr Celebration in Solidarity with Gaza**

[WARREN, MI] In solidarity with the ongoing genocide and humanitarian crisis in Gaza and as a reflection of our commitment to supporting our brothers and sisters in their time of need, IONA Masjid and Learning Center regrets to announce the cancellation of our Eid al-Fitr celebration.

We will be holding special prayers and dedicating our sermons to raising awareness about the plight of the people of Gaza. We encourage all members of our community to join us in prayer and reflection during this solemn time.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) narrates, “The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When a limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever,” thus, we cannot ignore the suffering of our fellow Muslims.



The situation in Gaza demands our immediate attention and action. The suffering endured by the people of Gaza, particularly during this blessed time of Eid, is a stark reminder of the injustices faced by many around the world. We stand united in support of our brothers and sisters in the Holyland, especially in Gaza against the Israeli oppression, ethnic cleansing, and genocide.

Additionally, we urge our community members to consider donating to reputable humanitarian organizations that are providing much-needed assistance to the people of Gaza. Your generosity and support can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by the ongoing crisis.

“It doesn’t feel right to celebrate the Eid while our brothers and sisters are enduring great sufferings at the hands of their oppressors while the whole world is complicit,” said Imam Mustapha Elturk, ameer of IONA. “It is our sacred duty, both morally and religiously, to stand in solidarity and share their burdens,” Imam Elturk added.

We extend our prayers and solidarity to the people of Gaza and to all those who are suffering around the world.

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IONA’s mission is to transform its members and help transform the surrounding communities to righteous, God-fearing people, who collectively strive for the highest moral standard and constantly seek forgiveness from our Creator to earn His pleasure. We seek His compassion and mercy in this life and in the hereafter. We rejuvenate our soul through internal struggle and spiritual exercise in worship of our creator God. The strength of our belief in God gives us the courage to establish good and forbid evil, thus promoting a system of justice for all mankind.