## ISLAMIC ORGANIZATION of North America

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 20, 2012

## **Interfaith Vigil for School Shooting**

Tonight, Ameer Mustapha Elturk representing the Islamic Organization of North America (IONA), joined the interfaith leaders and community members in an interfaith prayer service to pay tribute to the victims of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

The event was held at Groves High School in Beverly Hills.

In commenting on the event, Ameer Mustapha said, "Unfortunately we are and have been living a culture of violence. Violence begets violence. Two things need to happen after this tragic and unfortunate school shooting that resulted in the deaths of 20 children and six adults, one, we don't need guns in the schools, houses of worship, and public places, and two, we need to find a solution to the mentally ill people who are either rejected by the society or simply dangerous."

The event was represented by different leaders from Christian sects, Jewish, Muslims, Sikhs, and other community leaders.

People in attendance went outside and lit candles remembering the victims for a brief time praying for the victims and their families. It was a somber moment for all.

End

## Interfaith service held for victims of Connecticut school shooting on eve of 1-week anniversary

Read more: <u>http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/region/oakland\_county/interfaith-prayer-service-held-for-victims-of-mass-school-schooting-in-connecticut#ixzz2FhSyXQ5r</u>