

## **The Elders announce visit to the Middle East**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders – a group of eminent global leaders brought together by Nelson Mandela – have announced plans to visit Israel, the West Bank and Gaza at the end of August.

The Elders' delegation will be led by former Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso and will also include Ela Bhatt, Gro Brundtland, Jimmy Carter, Mary Robinson and Desmond Tutu. They will be joined by business leaders Richard Branson and Jeff Skoll who, with others, have helped to establish The Elders' organisation and continue to support their work.

The Elders are supportive of current peace efforts but have no intention of intervening in that process. Rather, the objective of their visit is to meet a wide cross-section of Israeli and Palestinian society including grassroots organisations, young people, members of civil society, independent experts, business leaders and others. They want to offer their support to those who are working hard for peaceful coexistence while also listening to the concerns and aspirations of a broad range of individuals on both sides.

### **About The Elders**

The Elders are an independent group of eminent global leaders who offer their collective influence and experience to support peace building, help address major causes of human suffering and promote the shared interests of humanity.

Based on an initiative by Richard Branson and Peter Gabriel, Nelson Mandela announced the formation of The Elders in Johannesburg on his 89th birthday in 2007.

The Elders are Kofi Annan, Ela Bhatt, Lakhdar Brahimi, Gro Brundtland, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Jimmy Carter, Graça Machel, Mary Robinson, Desmond Tutu (Chair) and Muhammad Yunus.

For more information please go to [www.theElders.org](http://www.theElders.org)

Further details of The Elders' visit will be available in coming weeks.

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