

## **The Elders: To end bloodshed in Libya, maintain pressure on Gaddafi to step down**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders today called on the international community to maintain pressure on Colonel Muammar Gaddafi to step down as the only way to end the bloodshed in Libya.

Welcoming the strong resolution adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council to try to halt the violent repression in Libya, they urged the rapid implementation of agreed measures including an arms embargo, targeted financial sanctions and travel bans. The Elders also underlined the need for swift humanitarian assistance to those in need, including people fleeing the violence.

The decision by the UN Security Council to refer recent events in Libya to the International Criminal Court to examine whether crimes against humanity have been committed and to potentially prosecute those involved also marks an important step forward. However none of these measures is likely to provide immediate protection to the civilian population.

UN Member States should consider whether other measures may be necessary to protect the people of Libya when their leader has manifestly failed to do so.

Ultimately, the Elders say, it is Colonel Gaddafi's departure from power, along with that of key members of his regime, that will forestall further bloodshed.

Chair of The Elders, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, said: "This is a moral universe – the Libyan people have right on their side and I am confident that they will succeed in their quest for freedom. I admire their courage in facing up to a leader who has in effect declared a brutal war on his own people to cling onto power. Gaddafi must recognise the truth – that the people of Libya are demanding change and he cannot stand in their way."

### **ABOUT THE ELDERS**

The Elders are an independent group of global leaders, brought together by Nelson Mandela in 2007, 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.

The Elders are Martti Ahtisaari, Kofi Annan, Ela Bhatt, Lakhdar Brahimi, Gro Brundtland, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Jimmy Carter, Graça Machel, Mary Robinson and Desmond Tutu (Chair). Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi are honorary Elders.

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For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to [www.theElders.org](http://www.theElders.org)

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