

**Kofi Annan temporarily withdraws from The Elders  
following his appointment as Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations  
and the League of Arab States on the Syrian crisis**

1 March 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former UN Secretary-General and member of The Elders, Mr. Kofi Annan, was appointed Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on the Syrian crisis on 23 February 2012.

Consequently, he has decided to recuse himself as a member of The Elders with immediate effect, until such time when he is in a position to re-engage.

This decision will enable Mr. Annan to devote his full energies and attention to his complex and critical new assignment over the coming months. It also respects the requirement that Elders are able to speak and act independently, and not be bound by any official position.

The Elders accept Kofi Annan's decision and wish him every success in carrying out the important mandate with which he is entrusted.

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**About The Elders**

The Elders are independent global leaders working together for peace and human rights. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

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**Media inquiries**

Sylvain Biville, Media Manager, The Elders

Email: [media@theElders.org](mailto:media@theElders.org)