

## **Media advisory: The Elders to visit Israel, the West Bank and Egypt**

**Press conference in Jerusalem on Monday 22 October**

**Press conference in Cairo on Tuesday 23 October**

17 October 2012

### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

Several members of The Elders will visit the Middle East next week, first travelling to Israel and the West Bank (21-22 October), then to Egypt (23-25 October).

Former Prime Minister of Norway **Gro Harlem Brundtland**, former US President **Jimmy Carter** and former President of Ireland **Mary Robinson** will take part in the visit to Israel and the West Bank. Former President of Finland **Martti Ahtisaari** will join them in Cairo.

In Israel and the West Bank, the Elders wish to raise concerns about the future of the imperilled two-state solution, particularly in light of settlement expansion. The Elders previously visited Israel and the West Bank in August 2009 and returned in October 2010, also visiting Gaza.

In Egypt, they aim to encourage the country's inclusive and democratic political transition and will hold meetings with officials, young people, civil society and media.

Further information and press releases will be issued during the visit.

### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES**

#### Monday 22 October

15:00 Press conference (time and venue to be confirmed)  
The American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem

#### Tuesday 23 October

17:00 Press conference (time and venue to be confirmed)  
Four Seasons at the First Residence Hotel, Giza, Cairo

### **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

Please note the schedule is subject to change – please register by contacting [media@theElders.org](mailto:media@theElders.org)

Further information on both visits will be provided closer to the time.

### **About The Elders**

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Kofi Annan](#), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Desmond Tutu](#) (Chair).

[Nelson Mandela](#) is an honorary Elder.

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

Follow The Elders on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

### Members of The Elders travelling to the region



#### **Gro Harlem Brundtland**

Gro Harlem Brundtland, a medical doctor, was Norway's first woman Prime Minister, serving a total of ten years as head of government. She chaired the World Commission on Environment and Development – known as the Brundtland Commission – which articulated the principle of sustainable development for the first time at a global level. She was Director-General of the World Health Organization from 1998-2003, and in 2011, she was appointed member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Sustainability Panel.



#### **Jimmy Carter**

Jimmy Carter was the 39th President of the United States of America (1977-1981). His achievements include brokering the Camp David peace accords between Egypt and Israel, and establishing US diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. In 1982, he founded The Carter Center which works to advance peace and health worldwide. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his "untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."



#### **Mary Robinson**

Mary Robinson was the first woman President of Ireland and is a former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. As an academic, legislator and barrister, she sought to use law as an instrument for social change. A tireless advocate for justice, she was President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative from 2002 to 2010, and now leads efforts to ensure that the most vulnerable populations in the world do not disproportionately suffer the effects of climate change. She is Chair of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice.