

Media advisory: The Elders to visit Myanmar on 24-26 September

Press conference in Yangon on Thursday 26 September

24 September 2013

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY, NOT FOR PUBLICATION

On Tuesday 24 September several members of The Elders will begin a 3-day visit to Myanmar, travelling to Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.

The Elders travelling to Myanmar are:

- [Jimmy Carter](#), former US President and Nobel Peace Laureate – **delegation leader**;
- [Martti Ahtisaari](#), former President of Finland and Nobel Peace Laureate;
- [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#), former Prime Minister of Norway and former Director-General of the World Health Organization, Deputy Chair of The Elders.

The Elders will have private meetings with high-level officials in the Myanmar government as well as other political leaders, religious leaders and civil society groups, including women's organisations. The objective of their visit is to support the country's political transition to democracy, encourage the peace process between the government and ethnic minority armed groups and promote local efforts to address inter-communal strife.

Media opportunity

Thursday 26 September 2013

13:30 MMT (07:00 GMT)

Press conference in Yangon

Venue: The Strand Hotel, Grill Room

A press release will be issued and distributed at the time of the press conference.

Important note for journalists wishing to attend the press conference:

- Please note that The Elders' schedule is subject to change.
- For updates, please email rose-swe@mango.com.mm or call 512884 or 09 4500 54200.
- Media representatives must arrive **one hour in advance** to allow for security checks and will be asked to show valid ID.
- Please note that the Elders will not be available for interviews.

Media inquiries

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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](#) (Chair), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Nelson Mandela](#) and [Desmond Tutu](#) are honorary Elders.

For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to www.theElders.org.

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Members of The Elders traveling to Myanmar



Jimmy Carter – delegation leader

Jimmy Carter was the 39th President of the United States of America (1977 to 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.”



Martti Ahtisaari

Martti Ahtisaari was President of the Republic of Finland from 1994 to 2000. A distinguished statesman, he is also a globally respected diplomat and peace mediator who has played a key role in ending conflicts in Aceh, Kosovo and Northern Ireland. As a senior diplomat he helped Namibia to achieve independence and was made an honorary citizen. In recognition of “his important efforts, on several continents and over more than three decades, to resolve international conflicts,” he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2008. He is Chair of [Crisis Management Initiative \(CMI\)](#).



Gro Harlem Brundtland – Deputy Chair, The Elders

Gro Harlem Brundtland, a medical doctor, was Norway's first woman Prime Minister, serving a total of ten years as head of government between 1981 and 1996. 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 to 2003, UN Special Envoy for Climate Change from 2007 to 2010 and, from 2011 to 2012, was a member of the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Sustainability Panel.