

## Kofi Annan, Jimmy Carter and fellow Elders travel to South Africa for Nelson Mandela's funeral

8 December 2013

### **MEDIA ADVISORY – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

A delegation of [The Elders](#) is travelling to South Africa this week to [honour the memory](#) of their founder Nelson Mandela.

The delegation, led by former UN Secretary-General and Chair of The Elders [Kofi Annan](#), also includes former Finnish President [Martti Ahtisaari](#), veteran UN diplomat [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), former US President [Jimmy Carter](#) and former Irish President [Mary Robinson](#).

As part of the official state funeral, they will attend the memorial service for Nelson Mandela at the FNB stadium in Johannesburg on Tuesday 10 December 2013, where they will join fellow Elders [Graça Machel](#) and [Archbishop Desmond Tutu](#).

The entrepreneur [Richard Branson](#) and the musician [Peter Gabriel](#), who brought the idea of The Elders to Nelson Mandela, will travel to South Africa with the delegation.

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### **Nelson Mandela and The Elders**

Nelson Mandela [founded The Elders](#) in Johannesburg on his 89th birthday, 18 July 2007. With the help of [Graça Machel](#) and [Desmond Tutu](#), he brought together ten 'Elders' – independent, progressive leaders committed to peace, justice and human rights – to work together on global problems including peace-building and reconciliation in war-affected regions, sustainable development and equality for girls and women.

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](#). [Desmond Tutu](#) is an Honorary Elder.

At the group's launch in 2007, [Nelson Mandela called on The Elders](#) to act as "a fiercely independent and robust force for good, tackling complex and intractable issues – especially those that are not popular." After founding The Elders, Nelson Mandela did not play an active role, but he remained an Honorary

Elder and the inspiration for The Elders' work. In May 2010, the Elders [reunited with Nelson Mandela](#) during one of the group's biannual meetings, in Johannesburg.

Since 2007, the Elders have [worked](#) on peace-building efforts in Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Israel and Palestine, the Korean Peninsula, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Sudan and South Sudan, and Zimbabwe. They have also worked to encourage inclusive and peaceful transitions in countries affected by change in the Middle East and North Africa. The Elders have always promoted sustainable development and equality for girls and women.

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### Media resources

- **NEW VIDEO** – “Nelson Mandela: uniting humanity around the world”  
The Elders reflect on Madiba's legacy (December 2013)  
<http://www.theelders.org/article/nelson-mandela-uniting-humanity-around-world>
- **PRESS RELEASE** – The Elders honour the memory of their Founder, Nelson Mandela (5 December 2013)  
<http://www.theelders.org/article/elders-honour-memory-their-founder-nelson-mandela>
- **VIDEO** – Nelson Mandela's speech at the launch of The Elders (2007)  
<http://theelders.org/article/nelson-mandela-introduces-elders-johannesburg-18-july-2007>
- **TRANSCRIPT** – Nelson Mandela's speech at the launch of The Elders (2007)  
<http://theelders.org/article/nelson-mandelas-speech-launch-elders>

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### Find out more

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

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