

Media advisory: The Elders to visit Iran from 26-29 January 2014

25 January 2014

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR INFORMATION ONLY, NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Four members of [The Elders](#) will travel to Tehran on Sunday 26 January for a series of private meetings with the Iranian leadership. It will be The Elders' first visit to Iran as a group.

The Elders travelling to Iran are:

- [Kofi Annan](#), Chair of the Elders, former UN Secretary-General and Nobel Peace Laureate – **delegation leader**;
- [Martti Ahtisaari](#), former President of Finland and Nobel Peace Laureate;
- [Desmond Tutu](#), Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town and Nobel Peace Laureate;
- [Ernesto Zedillo](#), former President of Mexico.

Brought together by Nelson Mandela in 2007, the Elders are twelve independent global leaders who use their collective influence and experience to promote peace, justice and human rights worldwide.

The purpose of the three-day visit is to encourage and advance the new spirit of openness and dialogue between Iran and the international community, and to explore what could be done to enhance cooperation on regional issues.

The Elders see the recent positive developments as a historic and strategic opportunity to end decades of animosity between Iran and the international community and to rebuild relations on the basis of trust and mutual respect. They recognise, however, that trust will only be built slowly, through continued goodwill and reciprocal action.

The Elders will exchange ideas with the Iranian leadership about peaceful ways of addressing conflict and healing sectarian divisions in the region.

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Please note that the Elders will not be available for interviews.

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](#).

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

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

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