

The Elders urge the EU to deploy a stabilisation force in the CAR

“Europe must not lose sight of the tragedy unfolding in the Central African Republic” – Kofi Annan

21 March 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

As European heads of state meet in Brussels, The Elders urge them to quickly deploy a stabilisation force to the Central African Republic (CAR) to complement the African and French troops already on the ground.

[Kofi Annan](#), Chair of The Elders, said: “Events in Ukraine have taken over the news cycle, but the EU must not lose sight of the terrible tragedy unfolding in the Central African Republic.”

On 10 February, Europe’s leaders pledged to set up a force of 800-1000 troops to help stabilise the CAR, which has been racked by violent clashes that have left countless dead and injured and is triggering massive sectarian displacement. The force was supposed to deploy this week, but has not been able to do so because troop-contributing states have not yet met their commitments.

“The protection of civilians is paramount. The rapid deployment of the promised European force, as well as a robust UN peacekeeping operation, will help to halt the violence against defenceless people,” Kofi Annan added.

Last month, the Elders [called on the international community](#), notably the UN Security Council, to take swift and decisive action to restore peace and security to the CAR.

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.

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