

Ukraine clashes risk a dangerous ‘tug of war’

Kofi Annan: Russia, US and EU should make common cause to defuse the Ukraine crisis

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders are deeply concerned at the increasingly volatile situation in Ukraine, where violent clashes between militias and Ukrainian forces threaten to escalate the crisis.

They deeply regret the loss of life and reiterate calls for the parties to reach a peaceful resolution through dialogue, to avert further tragedy and instability.

Kofi Annan, Chair of The Elders and former UN Secretary-General, said:

“The tug of war in Ukraine is growing ever more dangerous for the people of Ukraine, for regional stability and for the parties who can influence the crisis. We urge Russia, the United States, and the European Union to make common cause and work together to stabilise Ukraine.

“Ukraine’s territorial integrity must be preserved. An unstable and fragmented Ukraine is not in the interest of Russia nor the West and certainly not the people of Ukraine.”

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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