

## **The Elders condemn the violence against civilians in Aleppo and back UN call for urgent humanitarian access**

**London, 21 August 2016**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders condemn the horrific violence being inflicted on civilians in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. They deplore the devastating attacks on hospitals, schools, food stores as well as water, sanitation and electricity infrastructure.

They call on all sides to the conflict to fully respect international humanitarian law and urge the United States and Russia to take the lead and work with other parties to the conflict to ensure that open and sustained humanitarian access is urgently enforced as called for by the United Nations Secretary General and his Special Envoy for Syria.

[Kofi Annan](#), Chair of The Elders, said:

*“All parties to the conflict must fully respect international humanitarian law and refrain from targeting civilians. These attacks are unconscionable and constitute war crimes.”*

[Lakhdar Brahimi](#), Elder and former UN Special Envoy to Syria, added:

*“Peace will not be possible in Syria unless there is first a genuine and lasting change of policy towards the conduct of the war. The use of inherently indiscriminate weapons such as barrel bombs and chemical weapons must be ended immediately.”*

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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), [Hina Jilani](#), [Ricardo Lagos](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#) and [Desmond Tutu](#) are Honorary Elders.

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

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