



Dear Friends:

We chose to go to Sudan for The Elders' first mission because we could not turn our eyes from the humanitarian crisis, and we wanted to join with the many people around the world who have worked to stop the atrocities, protect the people, and contribute to peace.

Our mission offered us a chance to listen, learn and report on the views of the people of Sudan. The four of us do not represent governments or intergovernmental organizations. We represent thirteen Elders from around the world. We act only as individuals and a group of men and women who have lived long, learned much, and are united in the belief that we must do everything in our power to contribute to bring peace where it is absent, justice where it has been denied, and dignity where it is under attack. We want to amplify the voices of people who are not heard and give hope to the marginalized and help to the peacemakers.

While in Sudan we heard from a wide spectrum of voices, some optimistic and helpful, some weary by life's difficulties. They shared with us countless stories of pain, frustration and anger at the continuing violence and conflict in their lives. In every camp, city or town, people stood before us in the midst of such horror with dignity and conviction and asked us to tell their stories and urge the world to act.

The international community has taken many steps—pressed by the people of the world—in the last few years to try to bring peace and justice to Sudan. We must continue to work together to end the violence and secure a brighter future for all the people of Sudan.

Therefore, with humility, we submit our report on Sudan. We wish to acknowledge the support and advice of the United Nations and the African Union and our appreciation to our many Sudanese hosts for their hospitality. We also credit the immense support and friendship of our Founders, in particular those who joined us on the mission: Richard Branson, Shannon Sedgwick Davis, Randy Newcomb, Pam Omidyar and Amy Robbins. We could not have had such a productive mission or drafted this report without the tireless support and expertise of our staff: Robert Pastor, interim co-director of The Elders; Gayle Smith, senior advisor; Semhar Araia, program officer; Sara Latham, communications director, and our logistics team, Penelope Williams, Rick Jasculca, Andrew Jasculca, Laura Vonderhaar and Karla Bailey; and, finally, Maria Pahigiannis, Jeffrey Lunstead, Anthony Elmo, Siobhan Farey, Marguerite Jimenez, and Mana Zarinejad, who helped support the mission and prepare the report.

Sincerely,

Desmond Tutu
Chairman, The Elders

Lakhdar Brahimi

Jimmy Carter

Graça Machel