



COMMUNIQUE

PRESENTATION OF CONDOLENCES TO GRACA MACHEL AND THE MANDELA FAMILY

On 2nd February 2014, 35 women drawn from across Africa travelled to the home of His Excellency Nelson Mandela, to meet and condole with Mama Graca Machel and the family of Nelson Mandela. This visit, which coincided with the historic unbanning of all political movements in South Africa on 2nd February 1990, also brought more than 20 South African women, representing various institutions and formations, to this occasion.

The delegation, led by Madame Bineta Diop, the AU special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security together with Mama Getrude Mongella and Ma Phoebe Asiyo expressed their deepest condolences on the passing of the great African icon; reaffirmed the commitment of the African women to emulate and nurture the legacy of Nelson Mandela in general, and as it relates to the women agenda in particular.

In this regard, the women underscored the urgency of prioritising women empowerment as the basis for Africa's growth and transformation.

After exchanging views on the ongoing conflicts and crisis in several countries in Africa and beyond, the women strongly condemned the failure of leadership to protect women and children, agreed to redouble the efforts to hold leaders accountable, and called upon all actors, particularly in current conflict areas to protect women, children and society from violence and war crimes against them.

The group also highlighted the essence of the Madiba legacy, which goes beyond the call for reconciliation, and stands as a clarion call for the unity of South Africans, Africans, and the entire human race, and committed themselves to revitalize the African women's movement through creating greater synergy and unity of purpose.

Among members of the Mandela family present at the occasion was Mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela and Zinzi Mandela. The delegation comprised, among others Dr. Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi; Ms. Zainab Bangura, Special Representative of the UNSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict; Amb (Dr) Monica Juma, Principal Secretary of Defence, Kenya, Benta Angell-Hansen, Secretary General of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Erica Bennett, Mission Chief of the African Diaspora Forum and Dr. Vivian Lowery Derryck of the Bridges Institute, among others. The South African women present included, Dr. Gil Marcus, the Governor of the Central Bank of South Africa; Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Special Envoy of the African Development Bank, on Gender; Wendi Luhabe; Sheila Sisulu; Dr. Brigalia Bam. *For a full list of both delegations see FAS Website...*

2nd February 2014, Houghton, Johannesburg

For further inquiries, please contact:

Ms Mbali Zwané - Phone: +27 (0) 76 823 18 66 / Email: admin1@peotona.co.za

M. Yannick Coumarin – Phone: + 41 22 328 80 50 / Email: advocacy@fasngo.org