

REMARKS BY ARCHBISHOP TUTU AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 14th WORLD SUMMIT OF NOBEL PEACE LAUREATES

CAPE TOWN: 18 July 2014 – Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu prefaced his remarks at a press conference announcing the 14 World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, in Cape Town in October, by referring to the poignancy of the day.

“On this first 18th July without Madiba, we return to the scene of some of his and our nation’s most triumphant moments...

“The speech that he delivered here, on the day of his release from prison, afforded the world its first glimpse of his extraordinary brand of magnanimity. It was from here that he set South Africa on the road to peace and reconciliation. It was to this City Hall that he returned four years later to deliver his first public address after being sworn in as our first democratically elected President,” Archbishop Tutu said.

“The theme of the 14th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates is, *PEACE: LIVING IT*.

“But as we who have been awarded prestigious prizes for peace gather to contemplate “*Living Peace*” in Cape Town today, the people of Gaza are burying their dead.

“What we are witnessing in the Holy Land is the consequence of a global leadership void, a blind spot; an inability, or unwillingness, by world leaders, particularly Western leaders, to step in to alter the status quo and lay the foundations to halt the hatred – for peace.

“It is not a Muslim or a Jewish crisis; it is a human rights crisis with roots in what amounts to an apartheid-style system of land ownership and control. It is a crisis that fuels other crises; that undulates outwards to impact on relationships and events across the world.

“Yes, we condemn those who fan the flames by launching missiles against Israel. But the missiles do not justify Israel’s excessive and barbarous response.

“It is totally unconscionable that the Israeli Defence Force’s killing of four children on a beach two days ago elicited barely a ripple of condemnation from the West. The Guardian’s correspondent witnessed the killings: “*You couldn't mistake them even through the smoke, it was obvious they were children. The oldest one who was thirteen*

looked to me as if he was eight. These were dinky raggedy fisherman kids wearing shorts," he said.

"Are some lives cheaper than others?"

"As an old man, my appeal to my fellow laureates and peacemakers is to step into the leadership void. To make your voices heard, from all corners of the globe. To advocate, to pressure your governments and institutions, to cajole, to persuade..."

"The people of Israel and Palestine can live in peace together. They are not born hating each other. People are born to love. They learn to hate, from those around them, and the environment in which they live."

"When we gather in Cape Town in October, let's put our heads together about what we can contribute to overcoming what is undoubtedly the greatest peace challenge of our time."

"It would be a fitting tribute to Madiba."

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Released for Archbishop Emeritus Tutu by Oryx Media.