

# UNITED NATIONS PRESS RELEASE

## Central Park event to honour Nelson Mandela on 18 July, Mandela International Day

(New York, 13 July 2011) On 18 July, Nelson Mandela's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, senior officials, diplomats and staff from the United Nations will gather in New York's Central Park to perform public service to mark Nelson Mandela International Day 2011.

The "Take Action! Inspire Change" campaign for Nelson Mandela International Day asks people everywhere to devote 67 minutes of their time to a community-based activity. This is in recognition of Mr. Mandela's 67 years of service to humanity - as a human rights lawyer, leader of South Africa's struggle for freedom and democracy, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically-elected president of a free South Africa.

As United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated at last year's inaugural commemoration, "Nelson Mandela's achievements came at great personal cost to himself and his family. His sacrifice not only served the people of his own nation, South Africa, but made the world a better place for all people, everywhere...He showed the way. He changed the world."

The New York event will take place inside the Park around the south-western edge of the Great Lawn, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 18 July. [see below for map]

An opening address will be delivered by the Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa, H.E. Doctor Mashabane, followed by remarks about Mr. Mandela from Jennifer Davis, former director of the anti-apartheid American Committee on Africa and the Africa Fund.

A birthday cake in honour of Mr. Mandela's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday will be shared by the volunteers.

Also in New York, an interactive exhibit called *Take Action! Inspire Change* will be displayed in the Visitors Entrance of the United Nations. Visitors can learn about Mr. Mandela through a range of video and audio materials, as well as make their pledge to "67 minutes of service" in a message that will be sent to Mr. Mandela himself.

Other UN offices around the world will also mark the Day by undertaking activities in their local communities.

### Background on Nelson Mandela International Day

In November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day" in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom. ***For further information and downloadable video and photo materials, please visit [www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay](http://www.un.org/en/events/mandeladay)*** Also visit us on Facebook at [facebook.com/mandelaintlday](https://www.facebook.com/mandelaintlday)

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### About Central Park Conservancy

The Central Park Conservancy's mission is to restore, manage, and enhance Central Park, in partnership with the public, for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Thanks to the generosity of many individuals, corporations, foundations, and the City of New York, the Conservancy raises 85% of the Park's \$38 million annual expense budget. For more information, visit [centralparknyc.org](http://centralparknyc.org).

## Map of location within Central Park

Entry is via Central Park West & 85th Street or Fifth Avenue & 84th Street (red dots)

Meeting point is at north-western edge of the Great Lawn (green dot)

