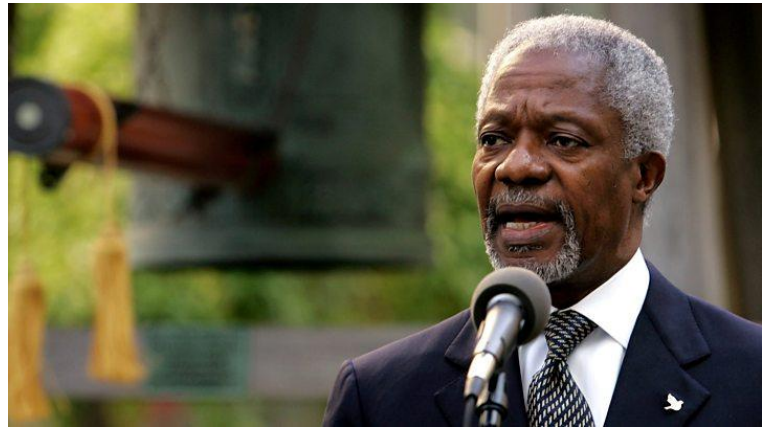


KOFI ATTA ANNAN

An Epitome of Human Dignity and Grace

“He was The United Nations”

In the morning of August 18 Kofi Atta Annan passed away peacefully while surrounded by his beloved wife and children in Geneva. Only a few months earlier in April 2018 the whole world had celebrated his 80th. birthday and praised his achievements in the service of peace and humanity.



The Annan Family and his Foundation announced the death of the great man and added: *“the world lost a man of deep conviction who was as committed to instilling the values of fairness, integrity, kindness, and service in each of us, as he was to*

advocating for peace and human rights around the world.

He was as present with each of us and the family as a whole, as he was with every crisis, every mission, and every intervention.

*No call, email, or text went unanswered.
No personal crises unaddressed.*

No major family milestones or celebrations unattended, no matter what was happening in the world."

The world united to praise the nobility of the mind and the greatness of the heart of Kofi Annan:



Un Secretary General called him *"a guiding force for good. In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations. He rose through the ranks to lead the organisation into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination."*

The Russian President Vladimir Putin described him as *"Remarkable person; the memory of*

Annan would forever live in the hearts of Russians."

Former US President Barack Obama said: *"Long after he had broken barriers, Kofi never stopped his pursuit of a better world."*

UN high commissioner for human rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said in a tweet he was grief-stricken over Annan's death. *"Kofi was the epitome of human decency and grace. In a world filled with leaders who are anything but that, the world's loss becomes even more painful He was a friend to thousands and a leader of millions."*

Indian PM Narendra Modi said *"the world has lost not only a great African diplomat and humanitarian but also a conscience keeper of international peace and security"*



(From left to right Ambassador Aredshir Zahedi, Mr Laurent Wehril Mayor of Montreux and National Counsellor, Secretary General Kofi Annan, Professor Craen, President of EU University, Geneva"

In April 2018, on Kofi Annan's 80th. Birthday, Ambassador Zahedi a close friend and old companion wrote:

"Kofi Annan is a great scholar with a philosophical mind, a mature and balanced statesman, a

distinguished writer and orator, a loved professor and appreciated Chancellor of University,

but above all a man of great heart, a loyal friend and a true lover of humanity. These are the very qualities that have won him the reputation that he has, and the highest distinctions to which a man can aspire."

Just a few weeks later in August the same year, Ambassador Zahedi added, but this time in the memory of the friend he had lost so unexpectedly: *"He was, I have often said, a man of noble mind and generous heart devoted to others, in the pursuit of peace and happiness for all. His achievements and humanitarian services are recorded in all memories and history will remember him as one of the greatest men of our time. May the almighty bless his soul and give you and the family the patience and courage you need to endure the heavy loss. All my prayers and thoughts are with them."*

Kofi Atta Annan was born on the 8th of April 1938 in Kumasi, Ghana. His father, Henry, was a regional governor. He started his academic studies at University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana before entering Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, where he got his B.A. in economics, 1961. He then attended Institut Universitaire des Hautes Etudes Internationales, Genève, Switzerland and finally got his master's degree from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1971.

His diplomatic career started at United Nations as early as 1962, when he was still pursuing his studies, later to become the first and only UN Secretary General chosen from the ranks of UN staffers. From 1960 to 1980 he held various posts at UN agencies and became High Commissioner for Refugees. For the next 16 years, Kofi served as Assistant Secretary General in Planning, Budget and Finance, Peacekeeping Operations and Under-Secretary General. From 1997 to 2007, he was the seventh UN Secretary General elected for two consecutive terms.

In December 2001, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize that he won as a recognition of the collective work he, and the United Nations colleagues had done to create *"a better organised and more peaceful world."*

Having served on several peace making and humanitarian missions and as Chancellor of Ghana University, he returned to Switzerland where he had lived and worked in his youth. He then chaired many advocacy groups and missions for peace, in Africa, Syria and other corners of the world wherever a crisis seemed to be threatening peace and security.



Kofi Annan
FOUNDATION

In 2007 he created the **Kofi Annan Foundation**, a non-profit organisation *"to promote better global governance and strengthen the capacities of people and countries to achieve a fairer, more peaceful world."*

The ambition he defined for his Foundation was to raise awareness and promote effective responses to emerging threats to peace and security. In ten years of existence the Foundation has achieved more than expected and its services to

humanity have been acclaimed by the leaders of the world and appreciated by millions of people in need of help.

Amongst other things Kofi Annan is remembered for the beautiful thoughts and high human ambitions hidden behind his words:



- *“The Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have every opportunity to participate fully in the lives of their societies.”*

- *“We need hope but also strong leadership. And this is where everyone must play a role. In societies emerging from conflict, it is up to each individual and institution to stress that which unites us over that which sets us apart. And let me repeat: you are never too young to lead and never too old to learn. So, I call on the young generation to put its remarkable energy, insight and passion in the service of reconciliation and peace.”*

- *"There is no development strategy more beneficial to society as a whole - women and men alike - than the one which involves women as central players."*
- *"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."*
- *"In the 21st century, I believe the mission of the United Nations will be defined by a new, more profound awareness of the sanctity and dignity of every human life, regardless of race or religion."*
- *"I have always believed that on important issues, the leaders must lead. Where the leaders fail to lead, and people are really concerned about it, the people will take the lead and make the leaders follow."*
- *"To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there."*

God bless his soul.