



United Federation for Middle East Peace
Connecting Continents for Peace

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USFMEP PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Passing of Dr. Wangari Maathai

New York, NY, September 30, 2011 - United Federation for Middle East Peace (“USFMEP”) was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Wangari Maathai. The first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. Maathai is a beacon for women’s rights, environmentalism and peace.

Dr. Maathai was a supporter and an embodiment of female empowerment. After becoming the first East African woman to earn a doctorate degree, she went on to establish the Green Belt Movement. In accordance with her familiarity with the correlation between environmental protection and peace, she prompted the organization to pay peasant women to plant trees across Africa. As indicated by the United Nations, the organization has planted more than 30 million trees and has helped nearly 900,000 women, throughout Africa.

During her lifetime of advocacy, Dr. Maathai endured government opposition, violence and imprisonment. Nevertheless, she persisted with remarkable courage and determination and has inspired many others to do the same.

Mrs. Sally (Salwa) Kader, President of USFMEP, fondly recalls her time with Dr. Maathai, of whom she invited to speak, to the United Nations Women’s Guild, in 2001. “Her influence on others who share her ideals was profound,” said President Kader. “She inspired me to continue to fight for peace and women’s rights in spite of the hardships.” President Kader extends her deepest condolences to Dr. Maathai’s family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

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