



## **Prime Minister of New Zealand to discuss Peaceful Conflict Resolution in Peace Matters Lecture Series**

**Cairo, November 28, 2007:** The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (SWIPM) is hosting the Rt. Hon Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand and Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage to deliver a lecture entitled “New Zealand and Peaceful Conflict Resolution,” on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at the Cairo International Conference Center.

The lecture, held under the auspices and in the presence of Her Excellency Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, President and Founder of the Peace Movement, is part of the Movement’s **Peace Matters Lecture Series** and will be attended by representatives of international organizations, civil society, diplomatic missions, Friends of the Movement and members of the SMWIPM Youth Network.

The Peace Matters lectures feature internationally recognized and prominent speakers who have contributed to enhancing global understanding and harmony. The lectures are designed to raise awareness of peace issues and motivate audiences to engage with their communities in building a culture of peace.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand is recognized internationally for her activism and her numerous achievements. She became New Zealand’s first elected president in 1999 and has won three consecutive general election victories. Under her leadership, New Zealand has enjoyed a period of almost continuous growth. The Prime Minister is in Egypt to open the New Zealand Embassy in Cairo. “The opening of a New Zealand Mission,” Prime Minister Clark said, “demonstrates New Zealand’s desire to develop our relationship with Egypt. My visit will also provide an opportunity to engage with senior members of the Egyptian Government seeking to strengthen political, trade, education, tourism and other links as well as to support our cooperation in multinational organizations.” Egypt and New Zealand work together closely on many key issues, including disarmament and environment issues.

Prime Minister Helen Clark is a former university lecturer who entered New Zealand’s Parliament in 1975. She was an active researcher of the movement to ban nuclear weapons testing in the South Pacific region and has been internationally recognized for her work. Between 1984 and 1987 she chaired the New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee and she has maintained an active interest in peace building an interest which has been reflected in the development of New Zealand’s independent foreign policy. Before becoming Prime Minister she

served as New Zealand Minister of Health and is known for her work in encouraging anti-cigarette smoking legislation and smoke-free work and leisure places.

Prime Minister Clark is a keen concert-goer and opera lover and an enthusiastic supporter of the arts. By serving as Minister of Arts and Culture as well as Prime Minister, she has given the arts a greater prominence in New Zealand life and encouraged the role of artists in reflecting and defining a modern New Zealand identity. Prime Minister Clark also enjoys outdoor life particularly cross country skiing. In January 1999, she climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain.

The Prime Minister is married to Dr Peter Davis a professor of sociology.

#### **Note to Editors:**

#### **About New Zealand**

New Zealand has a varied economy that operates on free market principles. The country underwent radical economic reform in the 1980's and is now one of the world's most open economies. The country is a vocal advocate of trade liberalization and has been judged as one of the most straightforward in the world to do business with.

Many tourists visit New Zealand each year attracted by the country's natural beauty. They also find a thriving and diverse urban culture and a society very much in touch with global trends. There are now one-stop airline links between Cairo and Auckland and more than one thousand airline seats a day from the Middle East into New Zealand.

#### **About the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement**

The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (SMWIPM) is an international, non-governmental, non-profit association that aims to enhance the conditions conducive to sustainable peace and human security. It focuses on the positive and holistic aspects of peace, developing capacities, creating avenues for cooperative action and making silent voices heard. It works hard to create opportunities for dialogue and the exchange of ideas and experiences, in an effort to foster partnerships and stimulate joint action. For further information, visit <http://www.womenforpeaceinternational.org>

The **Peace Matters Lecture Series** engages inspirational speakers to stimulate public discussions on peace and human security issues. In addition, it strives to encourage the active participation of civil society members in the promotion of the values and principles of a Culture of Peace.

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