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PRESS RELEASE

IDC MOURNS THE PASSING OF FORMER US PRESIDENT JAMES EARL CARTER



The **Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC)** joins in solidarity with our global network, organizations, and friends in mourning the passing of former US President James (“Jimmy”) Earl Carter, who passed away on January 30, 2024, at the age of 100 in his hometown of Plains, Georgia. Jimmy Carter served as the 39th US President from 1977 to 1981 and previously as the 76th Governor of the State of Georgia from 1971 to 1975. He had been in hospice care for the past two years, during which time his wife of 77 years, Rosalynn, passed away in 2023.

Carter will be remembered as the U.S. President who brokered a lasting peace between Egypt and Israel, culminating in the signing of the **Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty** on March 26, 1979. This achievement was part of the Camp David Accords, for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002, recognized for his *"decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy*

and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

- During his presidency from 1977 to 1981, Carter also negotiated the return of the Panama Canal to Panama through treaties signed in 1977. This move was pivotal in improving U.S.-Latin American relations and demonstrated a commitment to respecting international agreements.
- Carter's administration was also notable for signing the U.S.-India nuclear agreement and advancing human rights as a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy, which included criticism of oppressive regimes worldwide
- Post-presidency, Carter established the **Carter Center**, which monitors international conflicts and elections to restore democracy, including free and fair elections in Guyana in 1992, “which were certified by the international community as free and fair”. Shortly after winning the October 1992 elections, Guyana’s President Cheddi Jagan invited the Carter Center to help Guyana craft a National Development Strategy.
- In partnership with his wife Rosalynn, Carter established **Habitat for Humanity**, a global nonprofit housing organization operating in all 50 U.S. states and approximately 70 countries. Habitat's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. The organization works towards this goal by building strength, stability, and self-reliance among families in need of affordable housing. Habitat homeowners actively participate in constructing their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage.

US President Joe Biden said that Carter “stands as a model of what it means to live a life of meaning and purpose, a life of principle, of faith and humility. His life dedicated to others.”

US Vice President Kamala Harris said, “Carter was guided by a deep and abiding faith — in God, in America, and in humanity. He reminded our nation and the world that there is strength in decency and compassion.”

US President-Elect Donald Trump offered his “highest respect” to Carter, while noting in a Truth Social post that he “strongly disagreed with him philosophically and politically.”

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated, "A statesman of great vision, he worked tirelessly for global peace and harmony. His contributions to fostering strong India-US ties leave a lasting legacy."

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer remarked, “His presidency will be remembered for the historic Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt, and it was that lifelong dedication to peace that saw him receive the Nobel Peace Prize.”

French President Emmanuel Macron commented, "Throughout his life, Jimmy Carter has been a steadfast advocate for the rights of the most vulnerable and has tirelessly fought for peace."

UK King Charles reflected, "His dedication and humility served as an inspiration to many, and I remember with great fondness his visit to the United Kingdom in 1977."

Guyana President Dr Irfaan Ali: “His legacy is intertwined with the story of Guyana’s journey towards democracy and development. Guyana will forever remember and be grateful to President Carter for the election observer missions the Carter Centre undertook in Guyana. These missions acted as a watchdog of transparency, fairness, and credibility in the electoral process”

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi noted, "His significant role in achieving the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel will remain etched in the annals of history, and his humanitarian work exemplifies a lofty standard of love, peace, and brotherhood."

Carter's legacy is marked by his commitment to human rights, diplomacy, and post-presidency humanitarian work, including the establishment of The Carter Center. -Dr. Nicole Bissessar, Director of Community Cultural Affairs, Indian Diaspora Council

For more information, contact: Ashook Ramsaran at AshookRamsaran@gmail.com. Mobile (USA) [+1 917 519 5783](tel:+19175195783)

Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.