

# Condolence Message from Ms. Anke Weisheit

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011

It is with great sadness that we received and accepted the passage of the Nobel Laureate Professor Wangari Muta Maathai passed on while undergoing treatment at the Nairobi Hospital after a year's struggle with cancer at the age of 71 and the world will remember Mme Maathai as a hero who survived imprisonment, death threats and intimidation in a bid to save Kenya's and Africa's forests. I remember her benefit not just to the current generation but also to posterity. As the founder of the Green Belt Movement and her ardent support and belief in Green principles, we the Green fraternity have lost a mentor, a supporter, a Green, a leader and a woman of Noble character. See for yourself some of her quotes below.



She was also a Human rights activist who led Kenyan Women in an act of boldness to agitate for the release of political prisoners. She was my role model in diving my idea of reviving indigenous and traditional knowledge in Research, Training and Development Mme Wangari Maathai, who was also a veterinary anatomy professor, rose to international fame for campaigns against government-backed forest clearances in Kenya in the late 1980s and 1990s. She branded the clearances a political ploy that caused irreversible environmental damage. The courts blocked her suits and Green Belt Movement lawyers complained that their cases were dismissed on technical grounds or their files were mysteriously lost.

Her departure is untimely and a very great loss to all of us who knew her -- as a mother, relative, co-worker, colleague, role model, and heroine -- or those who admired her determination to make the world a peaceful, healthy, and better place for all of us. Take a moment and plant a (medicinal) tree in her memory Take a moment and raise awareness of any looming specie extinction threat in her memory. Take a moment and write a wonderful story of her achievements in her memory. Take a moment and do good to the ecology and your immediate environment in her memory. For all her acts of peace, for all her acts of love, for all her acts of boldness and for all her acts of leadership, she is in my hearts & lives in the strong spirit of the universe.

## May her soul rest in eternal peace

All my sympathy to the family



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