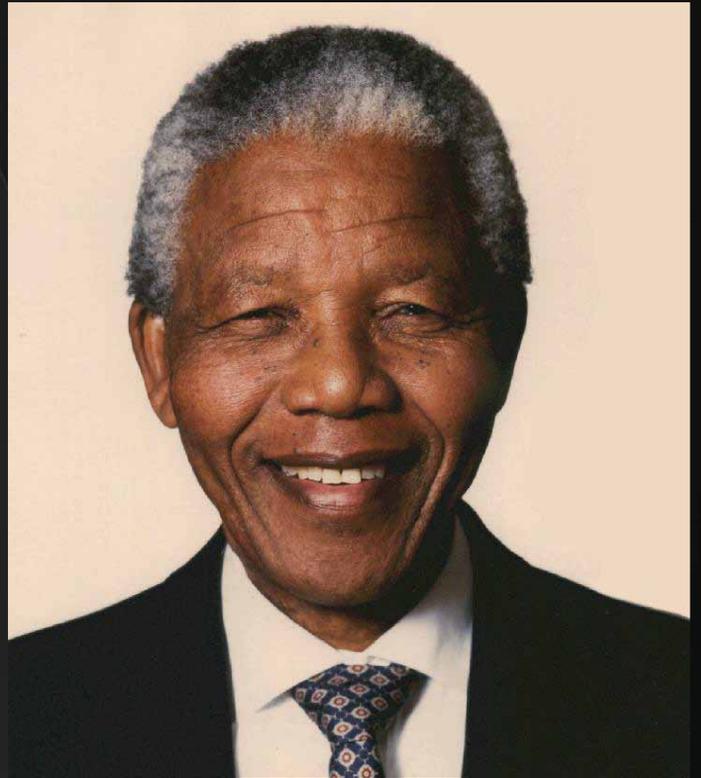


BLACK HISTORY IS COURAGE

Nelson Mandela

Born: July 18, 1918

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa on July 18, 1918. His father was Chief Henry Mandela of the Tembu Tribe. Mandela himself was educated at University College of Fort Hare and the University of Witwatersrand and qualified in law in 1942. He joined the African National Congress in 1944 and was engaged in resistance against the ruling National Party's apartheid policies after 1948. He went on trial for treason in 1956-1961 and was acquitted in 1961. He is the most significant black leader in South Africa and a potent symbol of courage and resistance. He consistently refused to compromise his political position to obtain his freedom.



Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison and was released on February 11, 1990. After his release, he plunged himself wholeheartedly into his life's work, striving to attain the goals he and others had set out almost four decades earlier. In 1991, at the first national conference of the ANC held inside South Africa after the organization had been banned in 1960, Mandela was elected President of the ANC while his lifelong friend and colleague, Oliver Tambo, became the organisation's National Chairperson. Nelson Mandela was inaugurated on May 10, 1994 as South Africa's first democratically elected president.

History of Apartheid in South Africa

The word Apartheid means "separation" in Afrikaans. In 1951, the Bantu Authorities Act established a basis for ethnic government in African reserves, known as "homelands." These homelands were independent states to which each black African was assigned by the government according to the record of origin (which was frequently inaccurate). All political rights, including voting, held by black African were restricted to the designated homeland. The idea was that they would be citizens of the homeland, losing their citizenship in South Africa and any right of involvement with the South African Parliament which held complete hegemony over the homelands. On March 2, 1960, a large group of blacks in Sharpeville refused to carry their passes; the government declared a state of emergency. The emergency lasted for 156 days. Police forces under the express order of then President of South Africa violently attacked students marching against Apartheid in Sharpeville, leaving 69 people dead and 187 people wounded. This atrocious horror inflicted against black South Africans is known as the "Sharpeville massacre." The Sharpeville massacre led to the global observance of the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** to remember those killed and attacked in the name of equality.

The ANC and Early years

The African National Congress (ANC) was banned in 1960 after Nelson Mandela argued for the setting up of a military wing within the ANC. In June 1961, the ANC executive considered his proposal on the use of violent tactics and agreed that those members who wished to involve themselves in Mandela's campaign would not be stopped from doing so by the ANC. This led to the formation of Umkhonto we Sizwe. Mandela was arrested in 1962 and sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour. In 1963, when many fellow leaders of the ANC and the Umkhonto we Sizwe were arrested, Mandela was brought to stand trial with them for plotting to overthrow the government. His statement from the dock received considerable international publicity. On June 12, 1964, eight of the accused, including Mandela, were sentenced to life imprisonment. From 1964 to 1982, he was incarcerated at Robben Island Prison, off Cape Town. After spending 27 years wrongfully accused and imprisoned, Nelson Mandela was released after sanctions were imposed against South Africa and growing international pressure from governments and grassroots organizations, who demanded he be released. In 1990, Nelson Mandela was a freed man.

NELSON MANDELA has since become a sought-after public speaker, sharing his personal narrative and ideology on race, equity, justice and peace throughout the world. His charity, The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund continues to raise awareness and funds for social justice issues affecting children. Although he is no longer able to travel due to his ailing health, Nelson Mandela continues to be a global treasure and hero to many. His autobiography, *A long walk to Freedom* continues to be a best seller.

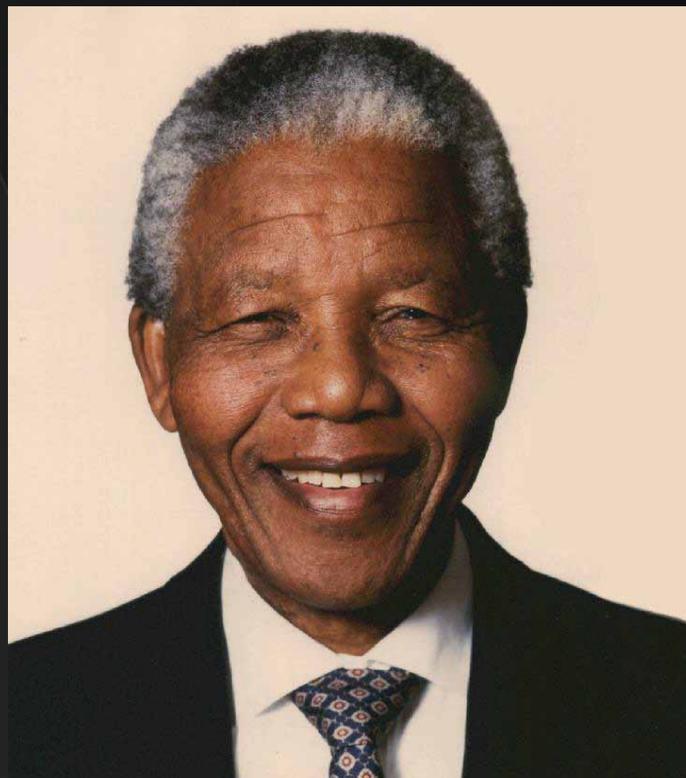
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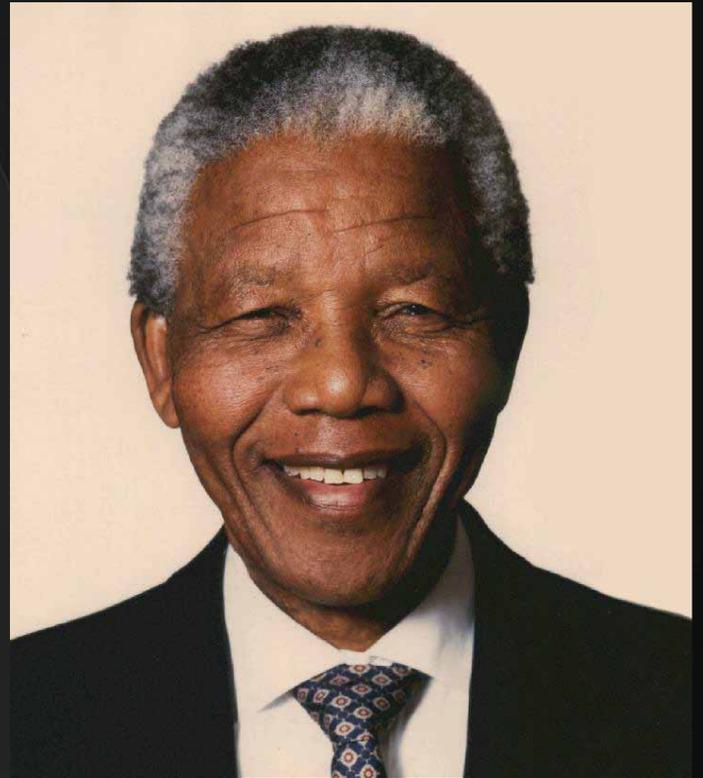
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