

BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2009

Setting the truth free

NELSON ROLIHLAHLA MANDELA (1918 - date)

Nelson Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa and was the first President of South Africa to be elected in a fully representative democratic election. He held office from 1994 - 1999.

Before his presidency, Nelson Mandela was an anti-apartheid activist and leader of the African National Congress's armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe. He was convicted of sabotage and other crimes while he led the movement against apartheid and in accordance with his conviction, served 27 years in prison.

Following his release from prison on 11 February 1990, he supported reconciliation and negotiation, and helped lead the transition towards multi-racial democracy in South Africa.

He is currently a celebrated elder statesman who continues to voice his opinion on topical issues. In South Africa he is often known as Madiba, an honorary title adopted by elders of Mandela's clan. The title has come to be synonymous with Nelson Mandela.

Nelson Mandela has received more than 100 awards over 4 decades, most notably the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.



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