



Presented by
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NELSON MANDELA

(18 July 1918 -- 5 December 2013)

“Peace is the greatest weapon for development that any person can have.”
— Nelson Mandela

1818: Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is born on 18 July in the small village of Mvezo, on the Mbashe River, district of Umtata, the capital of Transkei, South Africa. His father, Henry Mgadla Mandela, was chief councillor to Thembuland's acting paramount chief David Dalindyebo. Mandela's mother, Nonqaphi Nosekeni, was his father's third wife.

1919: His father is dispossessed of his land and money on the orders of a White magistrate

1927: Mandela's father dies. The acting chief of the Thembu clan becomes Mandela's guardian.

1937: Mandela studies at Fort Hare University for a B.A. and meets his lifelong friend Oliver Tambo

1939: Mandela is asked to leave Fort Hare due to his involvement in a boycott of the Students' Representative Council against the university policies. Moves to Johannesburg to escape an arranged marriage and experiences the system of apartheid which forbade the black population to vote, travel without permission or own land. Works as a guard at a mine and then clerk at a law firm.

1941: Mandela completes his BA degree via a correspondence course at the University of South Africa.

(Meanwhile he was admitted to the University of the Witwatersrand for an LLB. But left the university in 1948 before completion of the degree. He started studying again through the University of London but again did not complete the degree. Only in 1989, he obtained an LLB through the University of South Africa.)

1943: Mandela joins the African National Congress (ANC) as an activist.

1944: African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL) is organized on 2 April with Anton Lambede, President and Mandela, Secretary General.

Mandela marries his first wife Evelyn Ntoko Mase, a nursing student living in Johannesburg and cousin of ANC leader, Walter Sisulu (1912 – 2003). The couple had three children. The marriage breaks up in 1957.

1948: On 4 June , the Afrikaner-dominated National Party comes to power under Dr. Daniel Malan (1874-1959). He serves as Prime Minister of South Africa from 1948 to 1954. His platform is called apartheid, meaning "apartness." Mala government implements new laws supporting racial discrimination and oppression including the Separate Representation of Voters Act and the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act.

1949: Walter Sisulu becomes ANCYL Secretary.

1950: Mandela is elected ANCYL President.

The Suppression of Communism Act, No. 44 of 1950 is passed in South Africa in June.

The South African Communist Party is banned.

1952: On 6 April, while white South Africans celebrates the tercentenary of Jan van Riebeeck's arrival at the Cape in 1652, the ANC and SAIC calls on black South Africans to observe the day as a "A National Day of Pledge and Prayer".

ANC's Defiance Campaign Defiance Campaign begins on 22 June. Mandela is elected national volunteer-in-chief of the Defiance Campaign.

Mandela completes a two-year diploma in law on top of his BA.

On 1 July, Mandela is arrested and charged for violating the Suppression of Communism Act and is convicted with J.S Moroka, Walter Sisulu and 17 others. On 2 December, Mandela and others sentenced to nine months imprisonment with hard labour, suspended for two years

Mandela is elected Transvaal ANC President and ANC Deputy President.

In August, Mandela and Tambo open the first black legal firm in downtown Johannesburg, South Africa to provide free or low-cost legal counsel to many blacks.

In November, a meeting is held at the Darragh Hall, Johannesburg to look into the formation of an organisation that could “house the small but growing band of White democrats who supported the congresses” Bram Fischer (1908--1975), leader of the SACP, chairs the meeting and Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu and Yusuf Cachalia are also present.

1953: On 11-12 October, the South African Congress of Democrats (SACOD) is launched nationally at a two-day conference convened by the Springbok Legion, the Johannesburg Congress of Democrats and the Cape Town Democratic League (a non-racial, extra-parliamentary political organisation launched initially to protest against the Public Safety and Criminal Law Amendments Act). Piet Beyleveld is elected president, Len Lee Warden vice-chairperson, Jack Hodgson secretary, with Bram Fischer, Cecil Williams, Rusty Bernstein, Ruth First, Maulvi Cachalia, Rica Hodgson and Helen Joseph sitting on the executive.

1955: Freedom Charter adopted at the Congress of the People in Kliptown, near Johannesburg on 26 June calling for equal rights and a program of the anti-apartheid cause.

1956: On 5 December , Mandela is accused of conspiring to overthrow the South African state by violent means with 155 other political activists. The Treason Trial of 1956–61 follows and all are acquitted by 29 March 1961.

1958: On 19 March, Mandela’s marriage of 13 years to his first wife Evelyn Ntoko Mase breaks up.

On 14 June, Mandela marries Nomzamo "Winnie" Madikizela, a social worker, and the couple have two children.

1959: The all-white South African Parliament passes new laws extending racial segregation by creating separate homelands for major black groups.

On 6 April, the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) is formed at Orlando Community Hall in Soweto. Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe is elected as its founding president and Potlako Leballo as secretary.

1960: Sharpeville Massacre on 21 March, the police kill 69 peaceful protestors. On 30 March, a State of Emergency imposed and Mandela is among thousands detained. The ANC is banned on 8 April. The PAC is also banned.

Oliver Tambo leaves the country under orders to work for the ANC cause from exile.

1961: All-in African Conference held at Pietermaritzburg on 25 and 26 March at Pietermaritzburg. The Conference decides to establish the All-in African National Action Council. Mandela is elected Secretary of the Council.

On 31 May, South Africa becomes a republic, under the name of the "Republic of South Africa".

Mandela plays important role in the formation of Umkhonto weSizwe ("Spear of the Nation") or 'MK' as it was more commonly known, on 16 December as an armed wing of the ANC.

1962: On 11 January using the adopted name David Motsamayi, Nelson Mandela left South Africa secretly. He travelled around Africa and visited England to gain support for the armed struggle. He received military training in Morocco and Ethiopia and returned to South Africa in July 1962.

He was arrested in a police roadblock outside Howick on 5 August while returning from KwaZulu-Natal where he briefed ANC President Chief Albert Luthuli about his trip. He is imprisoned in the Johannesburg Fort.

(Mandela was kept behind the bar for 27-and-a-half years, that is, from 5 August 1962 till his release on 11 February 1990. His first conviction for which he had to serve a prison sentence was on 7 November 1962.)

On 6 November, UN General Assembly Resolution 1761 is passed in response to the racist policies of apartheid in South Africa.

On 7 November, Mandela is sentenced to five years for leaving the country without a passport and inciting workers to strike. Begins serving his sentence at the Pretoria Local Prison (Prisoner number: 19476/62)

1963: The Organization of African Unity (OAU) is established on 25 May in Addis Ababa, with 32 signatory governments.

On 27 May, Mandela is transferred to Robben Island, transferred back to Pretoria Local Prison on 12 June. (Prisoner number: 11657/63).

On 9 October, Mandela appears in court for the first time in what becomes known as the Rivonia Trial.

On October 11, the UN General Assembly adopts resolution 1881 (XVIII) calling on the South African government to end repression of persons opposed to apartheid, abandon the Rivonia trial and release all political prisoners and all persons imprisoned, interned or restricted for having opposed the policy of apartheid. The resolution was adopted by 106 votes to 1, with only the South African delegation voting against.

(The date of that historic resolution - October 11th - was subsequently designated by the UN General Assembly in 1976 as the 'Day of Solidarity with South African Political Prisoners'.)

On 3 December, Mandela pleads not guilty to sabotage in the Rivonia Trial.

1964: On 11 June, Mandela is convicted of sabotage with Walter Sisulu, Ahmed Kathrada, Raymond Mhlaba, Govan Mbeki, Elias Motsoaledi, Denis Goldberg and Andrew Mlangeni. On

12 June , he is sentenced to life imprisonment with Sisulu, Kathrada, Mhlaba, Mbeki, Motsoaledi, Goldberg and Mlangeni. On 13 June, Mandela (Prisoner number: 466/64) arrives on Robben Island with Sisulu, Kathrada, Mhlaba, Mbeki, Motsoaledi and Mlangeni. Goldberg is sent to Pretoria as he is white.

Mandela is kept in Robben island prison for next 18 years.

Mandela is awarded Joliot-Curie Gold Medal by the World Peace Council (WPC).

1965: On 11 November, Rhodesia gains its independence and only whites are represented in the new government.

1968: Mandela's mother dies and his eldest son is killed in a car crash but he is not allowed to attend either of the funerals.

1974: On 30 October, France, USA and UK vote against a draft resolution in UN Security Council seeking expulsion of South Africa from the United Nations.

1976: Soweto students protest mandatory instruction in Afrikaans, the language of the white rulers. Protests spread throughout Soweto. In crushing it, the government kills 575 people over an eight month period, a fourth of them under age 18.

1977: Steve Biko, leader of the protests, is killed whilst in police custody on 22 September.

1978: On 9 October, P W Botha becomes Prime Minister of South Africa.

1980: The exiled ANC President Oliver Tambo launches an international campaign for the release of his friend.

Zimbabwe gains independence on 18 April.

On 14 November, Oliver Tambo, ANC President accepts in New Delhi the 1979 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding presented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations New Delhi on behalf of Nelson Mandela.

1982: On 4 August, Glasgow (the largest city in Scotland) awards Nelson Mandela the Freedom of the City, the first City to do so.

1982: On 31 March, Mandela is transferred to Pollsmoor Prison with Sisulu, Mhlaba and Mlangeni. They are joined by Kathrada in October. New prisoner number of Mandela: 220/82.

1983: On 24 July, UNESCO awards its first Simon Bolivar International Prize jointly to Nelson Mandela and King Juan Carlos of Spain at a ceremony in Caracas, Venezuela, on the 200th anniversary of the birth of Simon Bolivar.

In August, the United Democratic Front (UDF) is formed ,as a prominent anti-apartheid movements, comprising of over 400 workers', church, civic and student organisations. (On 24

February 1988 the UDF was restricted from performing various activities, and was in effect banned, together with 16 other organisations. With the unbanning of the ANC and the dismantling of apartheid, the UDF was disbanded on 20 August 1991.)

1984: Bishop Desmond Tutu (born on 7 October 1931), South African social rights activist and Anglican bishop, known for his opposition to apartheid, is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1984: Cuba awards one of their highest honours, the Order of Playa Giron, to Mandela.

In March, Nelson Mandela" (known in some versions as "Free Nelson Mandela"), a song written by Jerry Dammers and performed by his Coventry-based band The Special A.K.A. - with lead vocal by Stan Campbell – is released on the single 'Nelson Mandela / Break Down The Door' as a protest against Mandela's imprisonment.

Nelson Mandela
Jerry Dammers

“Free Nelson Mandela
Free, Free, Free, Nelson Mandela
Free Nelson Mandela
Twenty-one years in captivity
His shoes too small to fit his feet
His body abused but his mind is still free
Are you so blind that you cannot see

I say Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you
Free Nelson Mandela

He pleaded the causes of the ANC
Only one man in a large army
Are you so blind that you cannot see
Are you so deaf that you cannot hear his plea

Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you Free Nelson Mandela

Twenty-one years in captivity
Are you so blind that you cannot see
Are you so deaf that you cannot hear
Are you so dumb that you cannot speak

I say Free Nelson Mandela
I'm begging you
Oh free Nelson Mandela, free
Nelson Mandela I'm begging you

begging you Please free Nelson Mandela
free Nelson Mandela
I'm telling you, you've got to free Nelson Mandela”

(Source: <http://www.thespecials2.com/lyricview.php?sid=43>)

The song "Free Nelson Mandela" reaches the Top Ten on rock-music charts in England.

1985: On 5 January, United States Senator Edward Kennedy visits South Africa for eight days. He is hosted by Bishop Desmond Tutu. Kennedy also visits Winnie Mandela.

In February, President P.W. Botha offers Mandela conditional release in return for renouncing armed struggle. Mandela refuses and releases a statement via his daughter Zindzi saying "What freedom am I being offered while the organisation of the people remains banned? Only free men can negotiate. A prisoner cannot enter into contracts."

On 28 February, Denis Goldberg is released.

On 21 July, the South African government declares a State of Emergency in 36 magisterial districts in the Eastern Cape and PWV (now Gauteng) areas. This was the first State of Emergency since 1960, and gave the police powers to detain, impose curfews and control the media and, a few days later, to control funerals.

On 19 August, the Indian Lower House adopts a resolution unanimously calling for the unconditional release of the brave patriot Nelson Mandela and other freedom fighters.

On 18 October, Benjamin Moloise, a revolutionary poet, is executed by the apartheid government.

On 3 November, Mandela has prostate surgery.

In November, Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee makes an unexpected visit to Mandela who is hospitalized for prostate surgery. Although a social visit, it marks a turning point. On Mandela's return to prison, he is put in a separate cell from his comrades so the government can have private access to him.

On 1 December, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) is launched .

World famous musicians, including Bruce Springsteen and Miles Davis (Artists United Against Apartheid), release the anti-apartheid disk "Sun City" on 7 December.

1986: The University of Calcutta confers the Honorary Doctor of Literature award to Mandela in a Special Convocation on 2 September.

Civic reception to Mandela by the Kolkata Corporation on 2 September.

In December, World Peace Council confers Ho Chi Minh Award to the African National Congress Organization. Oliver Tambo accepts.

1987: On 5 November, Govan Mbeki is released from Robben Island.

1988: On 11 June, the Nelson Mandela 70th Birthday Tribute, a popular-music concert is staged at Wembley Stadium, London and broadcast to 67 countries and an audience of 600 million.

On 12 August, Mandela is taken to Tygerberg Hospital where TB is diagnosed. On 31 August, he is transferred to Constantiaberg MediClinic for treatment.

On 7 December, Mandela is transferred to Victor Verster Prison (Prisoner number: 1335/88) near Paarl, east of Cape Town.

Nelson Mandela Road is named in New Delhi on 10 December.

Fatima Meer, anti-apartheid activist, writes at Mandela's request, 'Higher Than Hope - The Authorized Biography of Nelson Mandela'.

West Bengal Legislative Assembly adopts unanimously a resolution demanding immediate release of Mandela.

1989:

On 23 January, the largest ever protest by detainees against their detention begins when 20 State of Emergency detainees at Diepkloof prison began an 'indefinite' hunger strike demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all detainees. The action sparked off a national wave of hunger strike protests by detainees, and solidarity action by people and organisations in South Africa and around the world. Between 23 January and 22 December 1989, the Human Rights Commission had recorded 53 hunger strikes involving 1429 State of Emergency detainees.

President Botha resigns the National Party leadership on 2 February after suffering a stroke.

On July 5, Mandela and President Botha meet for tea at the president's residence. The meeting is cordial and Mandela presses for the release of Walter Sisulu from prison.

On 14 August, Botha resigns and F.W. de Klerk is sworn in as acting president.

On 15 October, Walter Sisulu is released together with Raymond Mhlaba, Wilton Mkwayi, Oscar Mpetha, Ahmed Kathrada.

Mandela meets President F.W. de Klerk on 13 December to discuss the future SA.

1990: At the opening of Parliament, on 2 February, President de Klerk unbans the African National Congress (ANC), the Pan African Congress (PAC), the South African Communist

Party (SACP) and thirty three internal political organizations which includes the United Democratic Front (UDF).

Pres. F.W. de Klerk announces on 10 February, that Mandela will be released unconditionally from the Victor Verster prison at 3pm the following day.

Mandela is released on 11 February from prison after 27 years.

Mandela receives his first South African passport on 19 February.

The African National Congress (ANC) elects Nelson Mandela as Deputy President of the organization on 2 March. ANC announces its decision to move its headquarters from Lusaka to Johannesburg at the earliest.

On 20 March, after 75 years under South African control, Namibia (erstwhile South West Africa) achieves independence and Sam Nujoma, leader of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), is sworn in as the country's first President.

Senior ANC leaders such as Joe Slovo, Thabo Mbeki and others return to South African on 27 April after a quarter of a century in exile.

Mandela is awarded the Order of Lenin by the USSR in May.

On 22 June, Mandela delivers a lecture at a special meeting of the UN Special Committee against Apartheid, New York.

On 14 July, Inkatha Freedom Party, a Zulu group led by Chief Buthelezi, is launched as a political party. The Inkatha targets ANC strongholds in the Natal province and widespread violence escalates, with support from the white police force.

The South African Communist Party (SACP) comes out to public political life at its largest rally ever on 29 July, held in Soweto. Mandela addresses the rally and says: "We are here today to participate with you in the public launch of the Communist Party, 40 years after it was banned. We do this because during the nearly 70 years of its existence, the Communist Party has distinguished itself as an ally in the common struggle to end the racial oppression and exploitation of the black masses of our country. It has fought side by side with the ANC for the common objective of the National Liberation of people, without seeking to impose its views on our movement."

SACP introduces its 22-person "interim leadership" to a crowd of 40,000 people.

The ANC and the government sign the Pretoria Minute on 6 August, in which both parties agreed to end the armed struggle.

The formerly whites only National Party opens its membership to all race groups on 20 October.

On 15- 19 October, Mandela visits India. Awarded Bharat Ratna to him on 16 October by President R Venkatraman in presence of Prime Minister, V P Singh.

On 17 October, Banaras Hindu University confers honorary Doctorate of Law to Mandela.

Mandela visits Kolkata on 18 October (Thursday), a huge public reception at the Eden Gardens.

Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal

On the occasion of the Jamnalal Bajaj Birth Centenary, Dr. Nelson Mandela receiving a special award on 18th October, 1990, in Raj Bhavan, Calcutta in the presence of Shri Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal It was presented on 18 October 1990, at a special function held in Raj Bhavan, Calcutta by the Governor of West Bengal and in the presence of Shri Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal.

He left Kolkata for Indonesia on 19 October.

Oliver Tambo, President of the ANC, returns to South Africa on 13 December ending 30 years of exile.

1991: In February, Winnie's trial starts for the kidnapping and assault of four youths by the Mandela United Football Club. Mandela attends the trial. Winnie is found guilty of kidnapping, but not assault, and sentenced to six years in prison. In her appeal, she is given a suspended sentence and fined.

ANC holds its annual conference, 2 -6 July, in Durban, South Africa after a break of more than thirty years. Cyril Ramaphosa is appointed its Secretary General. Nelson Mandela is elected President, and Walter Sisulu, Deputy President of the organization.

Mandela visits Cuba on 25-27 July.

On 20 December the first formal negotiations with the government take place at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA 1).

Nadine Gordimer a South African writer, political activist and recipient of the 1991 Nobel Prize in Literature.

1992: In March, the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation institutes the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights.

On 13 April, Mandela announces his separation from Winnie Mandela after she is convicted of kidnapping and being an accessory to assault. Winnie resigns as head of Social Welfare for the ANC, but not from the National Executive Committee.

1993: On April 10, 1993, racists in South Africa kills Chris Hani (1942-1993), General Secretary of the South African Communist Party and commander of Um Khonto we Sizwe , the military wing of the ANC.

Oliver Tambo (1917 – 1993) , former ANC President dies on 24 April in Johannesburg.

In November, India establishes full diplomatic relations with South Africa.

Albertina Sisulu, wife of Walter Sisulu is appointed President of the World Peace Council in Basel, Switzerland.

On 10 December, Mandela and Mr. F.W. de Klerk are awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1994: The ANC headquarters at Shell House (later renamed Chief Albert Luthuli House) in Johannesburg is attacked on 24 March.

On 30 March, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) is established.

On 26-29 April, the first free elections where black South Africans are allowed to vote. The ANC won 252 of the 400 seats in the national assembly.

On 9 May, Mandela is elected by Parliament as first President of a democratic South Africa.

On 10 May, Mandela assumes charge as the President of South Africa. He appoints de Klerk as deputy president and forms a Government of National Unity.

Excerpts from Mandela's inaugural speech:

“ Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, distinguished guests, comrades and friends,

Today, all us do, by our presence here, and by our celebrations in other parts of our country and the world, confer glory and hope to newborn liberty.

Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud.

Our daily deeds as ordinary South Africans must produce an actual South African reality that will reinforce humanity's belief in justice, strengthen its confidence in the nobility of the human soul and sustain all our hopes for a glorious life for all. ...

That spiritual and physical oneness we all share with this common homeland explains the depth of the pain we all carried in our hearts as we saw our country tear itself apart in terrible conflict, and as we saw it spurned, outlawed and isolated by the peoples of the world, precisely because it had become the universal base of the pernicious ideology and practice of racism and racial oppression. ...

The time for the healing of the wounds has come.

The moment to bridge the chasms that divide us has come.

The time to build is upon us.

We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination.

We succeeded to take our last steps to freedom in conditions of relative peace. We commit ourselves to the construction of a complete, just and lasting peace.

We have triumphed in the effort to implant hope in the breasts of the millions of our people. We enter into a covenant that we shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity - a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world.

As a token of its commitment to the renewal of our country, the new Interim Government of National Unity will, as a matter of urgency, address the issue of amnesty for various categories of our people who are currently serving terms of imprisonment.

We dedicate this day to all the heroes and heroines in this country and the rest of the world who sacrificed in many ways and surrendered their lives so that we could be free.

Their dreams have become reality. Freedom is their reward.

We are both humbled and elevated by the honour and privilege that you, the people of South Africa, have bestowed on us, as the first president of a united, democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa, to lead our country out of the valley of darkness.

We understand it still that there is no easy road to freedom.

We know it well that none of us acting alone can achieve success.

We must therefore act together as a united people, for national reconciliation, for nation building, for the birth of a new world.

Let there be justice for all.

Let there be peace for all.

Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all.

Let each know that for each the body, the mind and the soul have been freed to fulfil themselves.

Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another and suffer the indignity of being the skunk of the world.

The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement

Let freedom reign. God bless Africa.”

(<http://www.cfr.org/south-africa/mandelas-inaugural-speech-may-1994/p31036>)

On 23 June, UN the General Assembly unanimously welcomes South Africa back to full participation in the United Nations.

On 14 December, Mandela launches his autobiography ‘Long Walk to Freedom’.

1995: South African Communist Party leader, Joe Slovo (1926 –1995) dies on 6 January.

On 25 January, President Mandela presents Rajib Gandhi Foundation Lecture at New Delhi.

President Mandela attends the Republic Day parade in New Delhi as the Guest in Chief on 26 January.

President Mandela launches the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (NMCF) in Pretoria on 8 May. The motto of the Fund: "Changing the way society treats its children and youth".

On 6 April, President Mandela addresses to SACP 9th Congress at Johannesburg.

On 9 June, President Mandela delivers the first Bram Fischer Memorial Lecture, Market Theatre, Johannesburg.

On 23 October, President Mandela spoke at the special commemorative meeting of the UN General Assembly, New York.

1996: Mandela divorces Winnie Mandela on 19 March.

1997: Mandela meets Jyoti Basu (1914-2010), chief minister of West Bengal, during his visit to South Africa from 22 to 30 July.

F. W. de Klerk, former President (1989-1994) of South Africa, retires from active politics.

Prime Minister I K Gujral visits South Africa on 7 October. The first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to South Africa

Thabo Mbeki is elected the President of the African National Congress on 18 December, during the party's 50th conference.

Robben Island Museum (RIM) is established. Robben Island was declared a world heritage site by UNESCO on 1 December 1999.

1998: Mandela is awarded the Chris Hani Award at the 10th National Congress of the South African Communist Party, Johannesburg, on 1 July.

On 18 July, his 80th birthday, Mandela marries Graca Machel, the widow of the former president of Mozambique, Samora Machel (1933 -1986).

Mandela addresses inaugural session of the 12th NAM Summit (2-3 September) held in Durban, South Africa.

1999: On 16 March, the National Monuments Council of South Africa declares Mandela's house in Soweto a national monument. (Mandela and his family lived here from 1946 into the 1990's. He donated the house to the Soweto Heritage Trust on 1 September 1997.)

On 14 June, Mandela relinquishes presidency in favor of Thabo Mbeki. Mbeki assumes charge on 16 June.

Mandela establishes the Nelson Mandela Foundation, retires from active politics, and involves mainly in philanthropic activities.

Mandela is listed as one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century by Time magazine.

2000: The Nelson Mandela Museum is opened at three sites: Mvezo, Qunu and The Bhunga Building in Mthatha, on 11 February by Mandela himself.

Mandela is appointed mediator in the civil war in Burundi.

2001: Mandela is diagnosed and treated for prostate cancer with radiation.

Mandela is awarded the International Gandhi Peace Prize, at the Presidential Palace, New Delhi, on 16 March.

2002: Mandela is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian award, by George W. Bush, in Washington on 9 July.

On 9 June, The Mandela Rhodes Foundation Trust is established as a joint initiative between Mandela and the Rhodes Trustees to contribute to the development of exceptional leadership capacity in Africa.

2003: On 30 January, Mandela criticizes the foreign policy of the George W. Bush and Tony Blair. He says: "One power with a president who has no foresight and cannot think properly now wants to plunge the world into a holocaust," Mandela says in a speech to the International Women's Forum. About the Prime Minister of Britain, Mr Blair, he says: "He is the foreign minister of the United States. He is no longer prime minister of Britain."

Walter Sisulu, former Secretary-General and Deputy President of the ANC who spent 25 years in custody alongside Mandela, dies on 5 May.

2004: Mandela's first wife Evelyn Ntoko Mase dies on 30 April.

On 1 June, Mandela announces that he would be retiring from public life at the age of 85.

Jamia Milia, New Delhi launches the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace & Conflict Resolution.

Mandela inaugurates the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory on 21 September. The Centre delivers the core-work of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

2006: On 30 October, P W Botha, prime minister of South Africa from 1978 to 1984 and the first executive state president from 1984 to 1989, dies at the age of 90. Botha's family members decline state funeral.

2007: On 16-20 December, Thabo Mbeki loses the ANC presidential election to Jacob Zuma at the ANC's 52nd National Conference.

2008: On 18 July, Mandela turns 90 years old, asks future generations to continue the fight for social justice.

Thabo Mbeki steps down as South African president on 21 September.

2009: Mandela attends the inauguration of President Jacob Zuma on May 9. In November, the UN General Assembly announces that Mandela's birthday, 18 July, is to be known as 'Nelson Mandela International Day' marking his contribution to world freedom.

2010: Mandela appears at the Final of the FIFA World Cup in Soweto on 11 July.

The 15th Non-Aligned Movement Summit (11-16 July) adopts a resolution declaring the birthday of Mandela 18 July, as the Nelson Mandela International Day.

On 18 July, Mandela celebrates his 92nd birthday at home in Johannesburg with family and friends.

In October, his book 'Conversations with Myself' is published.

The 17th World Festival of Youth and Students festival is held in Pretoria, South Africa on 13-21 December. Theme: "Let's Defeat Imperialism for a World of Peace, Solidarity and Social Transformation".

(President Jacob Zuma inaugurated the festival. Mandela could not attend the festival due to advancing age and ill health, but sent his best wishes for the festival to a delegation consisting of WFDY President Tiego Vera, General Secretary Jesus Mora, Vice President Omar and Tapas Sinha, Coordinator of the WFDY Asia and Pacific Regional Centre, when they went to meet him on December 9, 2010.)

On 24 December, South Africa officially becomes a member nation of the group BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).

2011: Mandela is admitted to hospital in January in Johannesburg where he is diagnosed with a chest infection. He is discharged after two nights.

In June, his book 'Nelson Mandela By Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations' is published.

2012: The ANC turns 100 on 8 January.

On 25 February Mandela is admitted to hospital for abdominal complaint and discharged after one night.

Mandela is admitted to hospital from 8 December- 26 December.

2013: Mandela in hospital from 9 - 10 March and 27 March -6 April.

Mandela is admitted to hospital again on 8 June.

Mandela is discharged and returns home on 1 September after spending 87 days in a Pretoria hospital.

Mandela breathes his last on 5 December 2013 at his home in Houghton, Johannesburg, South Africa.

“ A great man is a beginner precisely because he sees further than others and desires things more strongly than others. ”

George Plekhanov in *'The Role of the Individual in History'*

SOURCES

This document is prepared primarily for the peace and solidarity activists. Various online sources are used, including the following--

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