

FOR USE BY WHITE PERSONS  
THESE PUBLIC PREMISES AND THE AMENITIES  
THEREOF HAVE BEEN RESERVED FOR THE  
EXCLUSIVE USE OF WHITE PERSONS.  
VIR GEBRUIK DEUR BLANKES

# Ambassador of conscience

Nelson Mandela's place in history is guaranteed.  
The former president and freedom fighter is credited with guiding South Africa's transition from apartheid towards democracy and is regarded as an icon in the struggle for justice around the globe

## EARLY LIFE

- **July 18, 1918:** *Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela* born near Qunu, in Transkei, youngest son of principal counsellor to Thembu clan
- **1939:** In Johannesburg he experiences apartheid system which forbids black population to vote, travel without permission, or own land. Completes law degree
- **1944:** Marries his first wife, *Evelyn*. Founders African National Congress Youth League with colleague *Oliver Tambo* (below right)



## RIGHTS CAMPAIGNER

- **1952:** Convicted for his part in ANC's *mass civil disobedience campaign against unjust laws*. Opens first black legal firm in South Africa with fellow lawyer Tambo
  - **1956:** Mandela and 156 other political activists detained, accused of conspiring to overthrow state by violent means. Trial collapses in 1961.
- 

Following divorce from Evelyn he marries *Winnie Mandela* in 1958



“During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination”  
Nelson Mandela, 1963



- **1960:** *Sharpeville Massacre*. Sixty-nine black protestors killed when police open fire during peaceful demonstration against rule that forces black citizens to carry passes. **ANC is banned**



- **1961:** Mandela emerges as leading figure in ANC struggle, becoming leader of *Umkhonto we Sizwe*, ANC's armed guerrilla wing
- **1963:** *Rivonia Trial*. Mandela and 10 others are charged with capital offences
- **1964:** Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment. Given prison number **466/64** – 466th inmate to arrive on *Robben Island* in 1964. **He is incarcerated there for 18 of his 27 years in jail**



## PRISONER TO PRESIDENT

- **1990:** *FW De Klerk*, South Africa's last white president, ends apartheid system and lifts ban on ANC. **Prisoner 46664 freed on February 11**
- **1991:** Mandela elected president of ANC
- **1993:** Divorces Winnie
- **1994:** Mandela wins first free elections by a landslide and is inaugurated as South Africa's first black president. Reconciliation becomes theme of his presidency
- **1999:** Mandela hands over power after first term

## RECENT YEARS

- Mandela shifts his energies to battling South Africa's AIDS crisis. He marries *Graca Machel* in 1988
- 

■ **July 18, 2008:** Nelson Mandela celebrates his 90th birthday