

## Profile of Anti-Apartheid Leader Nelson Mandela

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### Description

Nelson Mandela has been in prison for 27 years for attempting to overthrow the South African government. He remains a symbol of hope and freedom for many black South Africans.

### Keywords

Nelson Mandela, Apartheid, South Africa, Prison, Political Prisoner, Sharpeville Massacre, Violence, Racism, Revolutionary, Symbol, Legend

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## APA

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## CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE

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## Transcript

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Tom Brokaw, co-anchor (Cape Town):

To the South African penal system bureaucrats, he is simply prisoner number 0221141011. To the world, however, he is simply Mandela, the most famous political prisoner alive today. Yet, for all of his celebrity, very little is known about this man who is at once a symbol of South Africa's oppressive past and a symbol of hope for its future. NBC's Robin Lloyd tonight on the life and the times of Nelson Mandela.

Robin Lloyd reporting:

Nelson Mandela, a man of mythic stature and mystery. The majority of black South Africans born after he was jailed know little about him. No one but prison guards and visitors have seen him since he was imprisoned 27 years ago. Mandela was born here 71 years ago, the son of a tribal chief in the wind-swept plains of the black homeland of the Transkei.

By 1960, Mandela had emerged as a national figure in the anti-apartheid movement, at that time still peaceful. But then violence erupted in a black township called Sharpeville. Sixty-nine blacks were killed. Nelson Mandela (1961): There are many people who feel that it is useless and futile for us to continue talking peace and non-violence against a government whose reply is only savage attacks on an un armed and defenseless people.

Lloyd: Two years later Mandela was captured and charged with conspiracy to overthrow the state. He was sentenced to life in prison. The Mandela legend had begun. Now, 27 years later, the only clues of who Mandela is come from old friends in the resistance movement. They say he was never a violent man.

Yusef Cachalia: He is a person who will want to negotiate, who is very reasonable.

Lloyd: Mandela's biographer, who has seen him five times in the last year, says he accepts that white rule must end gradually.

Fatima Meer: He would like to see a country in which the racism is wiped out even from within the psyche of the average South African person. But he is realistic. He knows--he a very pragmatic person, and he knows how far he can go.

Lloyd: Yet militant blacks revere him as a revolutionary figure. To them Mandela's name is a rallying cry for the overthrow of the white state. For many poor blacks, Mandela is a symbol of their long suffering.

Unidentified Man #1: Really, without Mandela there can be no peace.

Lloyd: Meer says Mandela is worried about raised expectations.

Meer: This is really what bothers him, that they should know him and they should understand that he is a human being.

Lloyd: In the impoverished village where Mandela was born, his family and old friends await his freedom, rereading letters he has sent them. But even here, where the Mandela family has lived for generations, the man who left so many years ago is a faded memory and a legend. Robin Lloyd, NBC News, Johannesburg.