



Nelson Mandela



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*“One person has come to embody the aspirations of all the South African people — Nelson Mandela. Imprisoned for over a quarter of a century, Mandela will celebrate his 70th birthday on July 18th, 1988. Let us ensure that the whole world celebrates this important day with him. His life symbolises our people’s burning desire for freedom; his imprisonment is the imprisonment of the whole South African nation; the fight for his unconditional release, and that of all political prisoners and detainees, is the glorious fight against injustice, racial bigotry, and man’s inhumanity to man.”*  
Oliver Tambo

Nelson Mandela was born in the Transkei, South Africa, on 18th July 1918. An attorney by profession, he became a key figure in the 1940’s and was a founding member of the ANC Youth League. In 1952 he was the “Volunteer in Chief” during the Defiance Campaign against unjust laws (a peaceful campaign in which thousands of people courted arrest by breaking so called “petty” apartheid laws on segregation). In 1956 he was charged with 155 others in the “Treason Trial” which, after going on for four and a half years, ended with the acquittal of all 156 accused. The charges in this trial arose from the adoption of the Freedom Charter, which the regime regarded as high treason. The Freedom Charter begins with the words:

*“We the people of South Africa declare for all our country and people to know: that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people.”*

On 5 August 1962, Mandela was arrested, tried and sentenced to five years imprisonment for leaving the country without a passport when he met the head of state and other leaders of newly independent African countries and for organising an “illegal” strike. While in prison he was again brought to trial as Accused Number 1 in the Rivonia trial and sentenced to life imprisonment with seven others in June 1964.

After 24 years in jail, Nelson Mandela’s stature as a symbol of resistance and as a leader of the people of South Africa is still growing. The massive support he commands inside the country and the worldwide calls for his release make it increasingly clear that there can be no peaceful solution in South Africa without the unconditional release of Mandela and all political prisoners. Not only have the United Nations, the European Parliament, numerous heads of state and national parliaments all called for their release, but also many hundreds of thousands of individuals and organisations.

This card  
is yours to keep  
as a memento  
of Nelson Mandela's  
70th. Birthday.

This card  
will be forwarded  
to Nelson Mandela.

Please sign and  
send to us  
in the enclosed envelope  
with your donation.

TEAR HERE AND KEEP LEFT HAND CARD

To  
**Nelson Mandela**

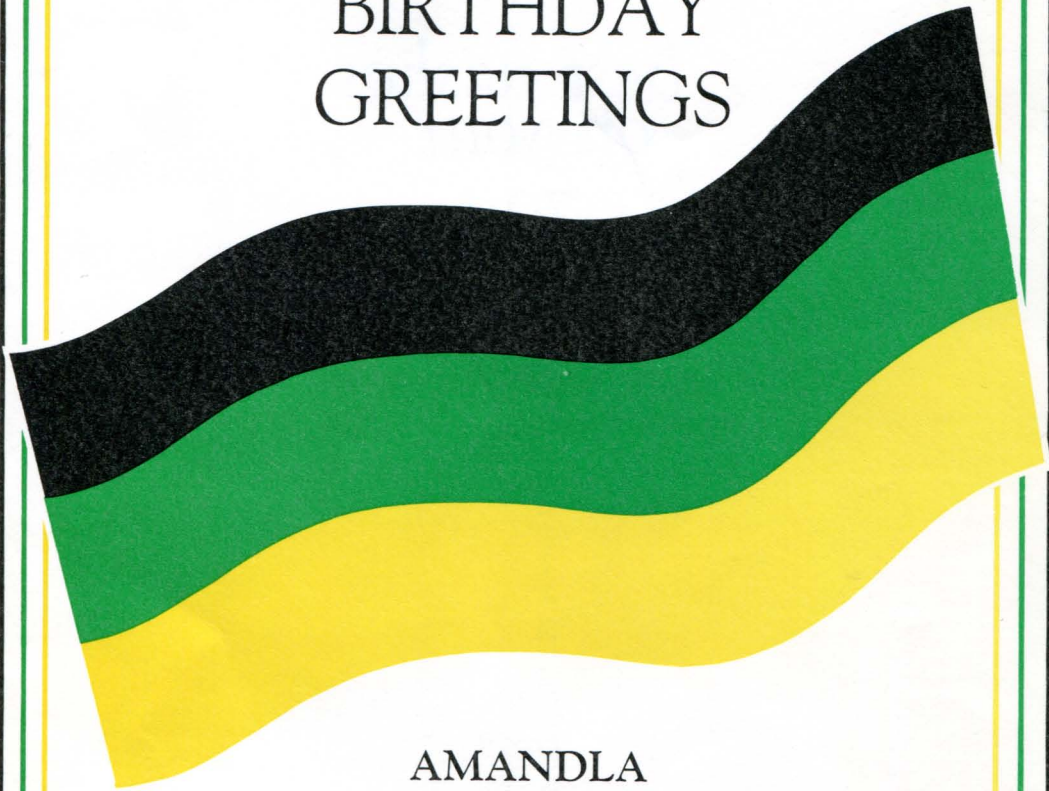
*best wishes  
on your  
70th  
birthday*

*from*

.....

70th.

BIRTHDAY  
GREETINGS



AMANDLA

