

*The Sheffield
Programme*



**NELSON
MANDELA**

Freedom at 70

**'... the most ambitious
programme of activities ever
organised by the
Anti-Apartheid Movement'**

11 June-18 July

NELSON MANDELA

Freedom at 70

On 18 July, 1988, Nelson Mandela will be 70 years old. He has spent the last 26 years of his life in prison, for his opposition to apartheid and his commitment to create a non-racial democratic South Africa.

Throughout the world millions of people will come together over the next few weeks in events to celebrate Nelson Mandela's birthday. In Britain, the Anti-Apartheid Movement has launched the most ambitious programme of activities in its history — to win 'Freedom at 70' for Nelson Mandela and all prisoners of apartheid.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was born at Umtata in the Transkei region of the Eastern Cape. He joined the African National Congress (ANC) at the age of 25 and was a founder of the ANC Youth League, along with Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu and others. He was a driving force in building the ANC into a popular movement against the apartheid regime.

In 1952 he became 'Volunteer in Chief' for the Defiance Campaign, in which thousands of people courted arrest by peacefully breaking the apartheid laws. He was a lawyer himself, and set up in practice with Oliver Tambo — now President of the ANC. Together they defended thousands of Africans charged under the racist laws of South Africa. But the law was used against him, and he suffered repeated banning orders and restrictions on his activities.

Nelson Mandela played a key role in convening the Congress of the Peoples in June 1955 in Kliptown. This Congress adopted the world famous Freedom Charter which begins 'South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief' and which outlines the programme that has guided the liberation movement ever since.

On 5 December, 1956, Nelson Mandela was arrested and charged with High Treason, alongside 155 others. The trial lasted for years, but eventually all were acquitted in March, 1961. Two months later Mandela led the 'National Action Council' in a nationwide 'Stay At Home' protesting against the consolidation of white rule in the establishment of a new Republic of South Africa.

In the early 1960's the apartheid regime became increasingly violent in repressing opposition. On 21



Nelson and Winnie Mandela on their wedding day in 1958. In 30 years of marriage, they have been able to spend only four years together. Winnie Mandela has become a leader in her own right, facing banning orders and constant harassment.

March, 1960, 69 people were shot dead at Sharpeville during a peaceful protest against the Pass Laws. Soon after, the ANC were outlawed. Faced with this situation, Mandela and the ANC reconsidered the policy of non-violence which had been pursued consistently for almost 50 years.

In December, 1961, the ANC formed an armed wing — Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK), or Spear of the Nation — to carry out sabotage against the apartheid state. Mandela was appointed Commander in Chief, and went underground. During this period he left South Africa illegally to visit other African countries, Europe and Britain — seeking support for the liberation struggle.

Shortly after his return to South Africa he was arrested, on 5 August, 1962. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for leaving the country without a passport and organising illegal strikes. He has not been free since then. Whilst in prison he was brought to trial as Accused No. 1 in the Rivonia trial. Along with seven others he was found guilty of seeking to overthrow the apartheid state and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mandela's speech from the dock at the Rivonia Trial was an historic and moving testimony for the liberation struggle. He recalled the long history of the ANC, of peaceful struggle in the face of state violence, of the decision to turn to armed struggle, of the rejection of terrorism, and of the aspirations of the oppressed majority. As he finished his speech, he looked up at the judge and said quietly:

'During my lifetime I dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination and I have fought against black domination, I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony, and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.'

During his 26 years in prison, Mandela's stature has grown — as an individual, and as a symbol of the liberation struggle. He is the most popular leader inside South Africa, and is recognised throughout the world — with the entire international community calling for his unconditional release. The activities of the next few weeks provide an opportunity for millions of people to join together in a powerful movement to demand 'Freedom at 70' for Nelson Mandela.



THE PROGRAMME

**NELSON
MANDELA**

Freedom at 70

70th Birthday Tribute

Saturday 11 June

Live from Wembley. Dire Straits, Whitney Houston, George Michael, Simple Minds, UB40, Eurythmics, Sly and Robbie, Maxi Priest, Hugh Masekela, Miriam Makeba, Chrissie Hynde, Bee Gees, Midge Ure, Natalie Cole, Phil Collins, Roberta Flack, Peter Gabriel, Jessie Norman, Harry Belafonte, Billy Connolly, Michael Caine, Whoppi Goldberg and some surprise stars. A 10-hour spectacular to be broadcast throughout the world.

Watch it with friends on a giant video screen — followed by a disco, bar, food and stalls. From noon to midnight, Lower Refectory, Sheffield University Students' Union. Doors open 11.45 am. Tickets free — donations requested.

Freedom March-Leeds

Sunday 26 June

After Wembley, the Glasgow to London Freedom March starts — with 25 walkers, one for each year of Mandela's imprisonment. On 26 June, South Africa Freedom Day, they will reach Leeds. They will be joined by people from throughout Yorkshire and Humberside as they march into Leeds — for a rally and festival in Saville Park.

Coaches leave Sheffield, from Paternoster Row, at 1 pm. Tickets £2.00 (waged) £1.00 (unwaged).

Football Competition

Saturday 9 July

A five-a-side football competition will be held at Concord Sports Centre between 10.15 am and 6 pm. Anyone can register a team, for £5.00 — or just come along to watch. Council Leader Clive Betts will present 'The Mandela Trophy' to the winners.

National Demonstration

Sunday 17 July

A massive national demonstration is planned, to join the Glasgow to London Freedom March for their last few miles into Hyde Park. There a rally will be addressed by Archbishop Tutu, Andimba Toivo Ja Toivo (SWAPO), Sir Richard Attenborough and others.

Coaches leave Sheffield at 7.30 am from Paternoster Row. Tickets £8.00 (waged) £4.00 (students) £2.00 (UB40).

Wear the Badge ~ Come to the Party

Monday 18 July

On Mandela's birthday we are asking people to wear the special 'Free Nelson Mandela' birthday badge — and hope that over one million will.

In the evening, there will be a birthday party in the Nelson Mandela Building on Pond Street. Varied entertainment includes cabaret, bands, comedians and stalls. Bar and food. Tickets £2.50 (waged) £1.00 (unwaged).

To book tickets for any of these events, or to get your 'Free Nelson Mandela' birthday badge return the attached application form.

APPLICATION FORM

Please send me:

70th Birthday Tribute

..... tickets. I enclose a donation of £

Freedom March-Leeds

.....waged tickets (at £2.00) I enclose £
.....unwaged tickets (at £1.00)

Football Competition

.....registration forms

National Demonstration-London

.....waged tickets (at £8.00)
.....student tickets (at £4.00) I enclose £.....
.....UB40 tickets (at £2.00)

Nelson Mandela Birthday Badges

.....badges (at 50p) I enclose £.....

Birthday Party

.....waged tickets (at £2.50) I enclose £
.....unwaged tickets (at £1.00)

I would like to join the
Anti-Apartheid Movement.
Please send me details.

Please tick here if you
are not a member,
and want to join.

Name

Address

Tel



Return this form to Sheffield Anti-Apartheid Movement,
8 Backfields, Sheffield S1 4HJ. Make cheques payable to
'Sheffield AAM'. For further details Phone 739147 (24 hours).