

DRAFT

Biographical sketch

Photo

of

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela

courageous leader of the African people in South Africa sentenced to five years imprisonment by a special court Pretoria November 7th '62.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, son of chief Henry Mandela was born in Tembuland 1918. After matriculating he was a student at Fort Hare University College and later received his B.A. Degree by correspondence. He studied law at the University of the Witwatersland and in March 1952 set up in practice as a solicitor with Oliver Tambo, leader of the African people in exile. In the same year Nelson who had been a foundation member of the African National Congress Youth League was elected Transvaal President of the A.N.C. and volunteer-in-chief of the Defiance of Unjust Laws Campaign. The Nationalist Minister of Justice imposed a treble ban upon him in 1952 (1) he was banned from attending all gatherings (2) banned from membership of the A.N.C. and (3) banned for two years from leaving Johannesburg.

now

During the marathon "Mass Treason Trial" which Nelson had to endure from beginning to end his legal practice was ruined; the protracted ordeal however served to turn this handsome likeable but superficial young man into a fearless leader of the African people.

fight

Even before the trial ended in 1960 when the A.N.C. was outlawed Nelson began to play a leading role in the struggle for freedom. At the All-In-African Conference in Pietersmaritzburg in 1961 he was the main speaker and was elected leader of the National Action Council. To escape the vigilance of the South African "Special Branch" he went underground and for 15 months was known the world over as the Black Pimpernel. He was subsequently caught and charged with inciting African workers to "stay at home" in protest against the imposition of a so called Republican Constitution upon South Africa and with leaving South Africa without a valid travel document. He was found guilty on both charges and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment for "incitement" and received

the maximum sentence ^{of 2 years} provided by law for leaving the country without a passport. The savage sentence imposed upon this brave African leader did not break his spirit. He conducted his own defence, exposed the infamies of apartheid and when sentence was pronounced he defiantly proclaimed that he will resume the struggle as soon as he is released. The name of Nelson Mandela is revered by millions of people in South Africa and throughout the world ~~just as the names of his tormentors are execrator.~~

Exhaust from letter of Nelson Mandela
to Fureed
" (quote)

120 words



Nelson Mandela
CHARGED

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