

Nelson Mandela: One of the World's Most Influential Leaders

Written by Jamey Watts Forward Times Intern
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Nelson Mandela, now 94 years of age, was born in 1918, which was way before my time. Although I'm a 90s baby, that doesn't mean that I'm not old enough to know about him. No matter how old are young you are you should know him. Nelson Mandela is history!

Mandela is a civil rights activist and a world leader.

Mandela was the first black president of South Africa.

Mandela dismantled the legacy of apartheid.

Mandela played a huge role in putting an end to racism, poverty, and inequality, not only in South Africa, but across the nation.

Mandela is a symbol of global peacemaking.

Mandela was repeatedly arrested for seditious activities, going against the government. In 1962, he was arrested and convicted of sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the government, where he was sentenced to life imprisonment. He served 27 years in prison and shortly after his release, he was elected President in South Africa.

Mandela was a firm believer in democracy and believed that the basis of democracy was inclusivity, accountability, and freedom of speech. He is one of the world's most respected leaders. He led the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa with equality and justice.

Nelson Mandela fought for what he believed in, no matter what. Anyone is old enough to stand up for what they believe in by making a voice for themselves. In the society that we live in,

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nothing will ever get done if we don't speak on it and bring it to attention of the masses. We must fight for what we believe in, no matter how big or small the situation might be. If we don't do it for ourselves, then who will?

Why not choose to be that outlaw if it means freedom and the right to live as you desire, as long as we are not infringing on the rights of others?

“When a man is denied the right to live the life he believes in, he has no choice but to become an outlaw.” -Nelson Mandela