

The United Nations pays tribute to Nelson Mandela

The United Nations mourns Nelson Mandela, who has died in South Africa. He was 95 years old.

Mandela was a man, who devoted his life to the service of his people and the fight for human dignity, equality and freedom for all.

Throughout his life, and even during his 27 years of imprisonment in South Africa, he continued the struggle.

Playing a decisive role in dismantling Apartheid and bringing together all South Africans.

On his first ever visit to the United Nations, in 1990, he received a standing ovation that seemed to go on forever.

As the international community applauded, he stood, and listened, humble.

Standing ovations were something that Nelson Mandela had to get used to.

Here in 1994. Here in 2000.

In a statement, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that Nelson Mandela had showed "what is possible for our world and within each one of us -- if we believe, dream and work together"

"Let us continue," he added, "each day, to be inspired by his lifelong example and his call to never cease working for a better and more just world."