



6-12-2013

To the Mandela Family
SA Council of Churches
ANC

Dear All,

This is indeed a milestone in the history of the South African Struggle. Today, you and millions around the world bid farewell to the icon figure of one of the greatest legends/heroes of 20th century. Nelson Mandela has departed from his earthly residence after 94 years of pursuit for justice for the South Africans and for other oppressed people, including us, the Palestinians.

To you, members of the family, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, the parting is extremely painful and even intolerable. The deep void that the head of your household leaves will be intensely felt since Nelson Mandela was also a national and international figure. Sharing that great loss with so many who loved him dearly should be a source of true comfort for you who accept the will of the Creator and know that dear Madiba is “Blessed” as “are the dead which die in the Lord...They rest from their labors and their deeds follow them (Rev. 14:130) His Long Walk to Freedom as wrote Sir David Steel is a’ vivid testimony to an unusual mixture of courage, persistence, tolerance and forgiveness.’ Andre Brink saw this born leader ‘burning with the luminosity of faith in the invincible nature of hope and dignity.’

We, at Kairos Palestine would like to share your grief at the loss of your great leader but also your pride in his tenacious and firm stand against the dehumanizing Apartheid and all the plots of discrimination and racism to destroy humanity. We are inspired by his costly perseverance, despite humiliation through incarceration at Robben Island for 27 years that finally yielded its fruits. In 2010, when a delegation from Kairos Palestine visited South Africa, we did not have the honor of meeting the great leader, but had the unique opportunity of spending some time with Ahmed Kathrada, his faithful companion and cellmate.

To you leaders and rulers of South Africa, We as Palestinians cannot forget the bonds that Nelson Mandela had with our late President Yasser Arafat. The success of your country’s rightful struggle has taught us all many lessons among which, the right to resist by all means including boycott, divestment and sanctions. We hope that our just cause will also lead to our freedom and liberation, with your cooperation and solidarity as well as world support.

May you rest in eternal light and peace, Nelson Mandela and in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, another great political leader, we can hear you saying: My life is my message.

Kairos Palestine – A Moment of Truth, authors and staff