Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (July 18, 1918 - December 5, 2013) was a revolutionary who spent his entire adult life working for equality in South Africa. Mandela has inspired people around the world to work peacefully for a better life.

After spending decades in prison for fighting apartheid (apartheid was a set of laws establishing racial separation and discrimination in South Africa), Mandela was released in 1990, the year apartheid was repealed. Mandela became President of South Africa in 1994 and championed reconciliation, a peaceful resolution after decades of repressive laws against black South Africans.