

The South African apartheid government could see that Nelson Mandela was a leader. He was prepared to stand up for what he believed was right. They did not like this. They arrested him and seven of his friends. The judge said that they must spend the rest of their lives in prison. We call people who are sent to jail for what they believe **political prisoners**.



Nelson Mandela and other trialists outside the court when they were on trial.

Other people in South Africa and in other countries around the world protested against apartheid. These people were black and white. They were old and young. Many were still at school.



People protesting Apartheid in London, England.

After many years, the South African government finally had to agree that it was time for apartheid to end. All the political prisoners were let out of jail. Mandela was allowed to go free after 27 years in prison.

Apartheid ended in 1994. Every South African over 18 years old could vote for a new government. Mandela became the country's first black president.



Nelson Mandela and Winnie Mandela on the day that he was released from prison.



Nelson Mandela was sworn in as president of South Africa in Pretoria in 1994.