# <http://www.billmuehlenberg.com/2013/12/06/nelson-mandela/>

# Nelson Mandela

It was not my intention to say anything about this subject, but with so much hagiography and historical revisionism taking place already, even by Christians, it seems a piece to help bring a bit of balance here might be in order. The impression we are getting from many is this: not only was Nelson Mandela messianic in nature, but he is now in the bosom of heaven.

It seems we have warrant for neither conviction however. I do not claim to be an authority on the man, but whether he was a genuine Christian who repented of his sins and was reconciled to God through Christ is not clear. I hope he was, and those who have proof of this are welcome to bring it forward.

If he were such a great Christian, plenty of Christians suffered under him, as South African missionary Dr Peter Hammond has said. As one article states, “Mandela was deeply involved in terrorist activity and is responsible for promoting wickedness in the land. ‘I wouldn’t generally want to celebrate somebody who made his position in life by blowing people up,’ he stated on a recent broadcast….

“Hammond outlined that Mandela was the head of the military wing of the African National Committee (ANC), which Hammond also referred to as ‘the abortion, necklacing and corruption party.’ He said that 1,000 Africans were killed by necklacing in the country through the ANC, an act where terrorists would ‘put an automobile tire over someone, pour petrol over them [and] set them alight.’

“Hammond also described numerous other acts of violence that he alleges were committed by the ANC under the order or oversight of Mandela. ‘Missionaries and their kids [were] murdered, bayonetted on the fields—whole families killed by landmines planted in the roads,’ he said. The South African missionary stated that Mandela’s wife Winnie also participated in violent acts. ‘Winnie Mandela actually was found guilty in court of the murder of a 12-year-old boy,’ he explained. ‘And it was upheld on appeal. She was sentenced to five years in prison, [but] she hasn’t served a day’.”

I hope that he was in fact a true believer. But it is just not clear it seems. However I wish here to mainly look at some more political and historical issues. The truth is, to say he was a great man is misleading in many respects. Sure, he was charming and gracious, and his moves for national reconciliation were to be applauded.

No one is denying that. But that is not all there is to the man. Simply put, he also was a Marxist and a terrorist who was imprisoned after being found guilty of committing 156 acts of violence and terrorism. Consider some more detail here.

Mandela was imprisoned for involvement in these terrorist attacks. The guerrilla force, uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK, or ‘Spear of the Nation’), the terrorist wing of the ANC and South African Communist Party, was founded in 1961 by him and his advisor, the Lithuanian-born communist Joe Slovo, who was secretary general of the South African Communist Party in 1986.

Slovo planned many of the ANC terrorist attacks. In 1962, Mandela was arrested along with 19 others, many of whom were communists, in a police raid on ANC headquarters at a farm in Rivonia, a Johannesburg suburb. In the Rivonia Trial of 1963-1964 the defendants were ‘tried for 221 acts of sabotage designed to overthrow the government and conspiring to aid foreign military units’.

Does anyone remember the Pretoria Church Street bombing? As one write up puts it: “The Church Street attack on May 20, 1983 killed 19 and injured more than 200 people when a car with 40kg of explosives was detonated outside the SAAF headquarters. Two MK cadres, who were in the car at the time, were also killed because the bomb exploded two minutes early.

“A huge pall of smoke rose hundreds of feet into the air as debris and bodies were strewn around the scene of the explosion. It exploded at the height of the city’s rush-hour as hundreds of people were leaving work for the weekend. Glass and metal were catapulted into the air as shop-fronts and windows were blown out. Many passers-by had limbs amputated by the flying debris. Others bled to death.

“In his book Long Walk to Freedom, Nelson Mandela wrote that as a leading member of the ANC’s executive committee, he had ‘personally signed off’ in approving these acts of terrorism. This is the horror which Mandela had ‘signed off’ for while he was in prison – convicted for other acts of terrorism after the Rivonia trial. The late SA president PW Botha told Mandela in 1985 that he could be a free man as long as he did just one thing: ‘publicly renounce violence’. Mandela refused.”

And as Lee Jenkins also notes, “Tellingly, not only did Mandela refuse to renounce violence, Amnesty refused to take his case stating ‘[the] movement recorded that it could not give the name of “Prisoner of Conscience” to anyone associated with violence, even though as in “conventional warfare” a degree of restraint may be exercised’.”

He continues, “Despite being synonymous with freedom and democracy, Mandela was never afraid to glad hand the thugs and tyrants of the international arena. General Sani Abacha seized power in Nigeria in a military coup in November 1993. From the start of his presidency, in May 1994, Nelson Mandela refrained from publicly condemning Abacha’s actions. Up until the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in November 1995 the ANC government vigorously opposed the imposition of sanctions against Nigeria…

“Two of the ANC’s biggest donors, in the 1990s, were Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya and President Suharto of Indonesia. Not only did Mandela refrain from criticising their lamentable human rights records but he interceded diplomatically on their behalf, and awarded them South Africa’s highest honour. Suharto was awarded a state visit, a 21-gun salute, and The Order of Good Hope (gold class).”

He also lists some of the other attacks ‘signed off’ by Mandela:  
-Amanzimtoti Shopping complex KZN, 23 December 1985  
-Krugersdorp Magistrate’s Court, 17 March 1988  
-Durban Pick ‘n Pay shopping complex, 1 September 1986  
-Pretoria Sterland movie complex 16 April 1988 – limpet mine killed ANC terrorist M O Maponya instead  
-Johannesburg Magistrate’s Court, 20 May 1987  
-Roodepoort Standard Bank 3 June, 1988

Surprisingly both Christians and conservatives have been getting involved in the hagiographies and the rewriting of history – even at this early stage after his passing. But as Peter Hammond reminds us, there is no reason to canonise the man, since Mandela was hardly a conservative or Christian icon: “There’s a lot of Christians out there who idolize Nelson Mandela because they’ve been given false, misleading and incomplete information,” he said. “He has pushed for the legalization of abortion, pornography [and] homosexual relationships. … [He was] trying to legalize prostitution. He’s a radical liberal.”

While we again can praise his moves for reconciliation and his willingness to forgive and not remain embittered, as I say, we have far too many other areas that we must also assess, both in the man and in his fruit. David Horowitz offers a somewhat balanced account by way of summary:

“Mandela began as a terrorist and never turned his back on monsters like Arafat and Castro, whom he considered brothers in arms. When he was released from prison by deKlerk, he showed unexpected statesmanship, counseling reconciliation rather than revenge, no small achievement in a country in which the ‘liberation’ movement (led by Mandela’s wife and party) placed oil filled inner tubes around the necks of former comrades and set them on fire.

“But if a leader should be judged by his works, the country Mandela left behind is an indictment of his political career, not an achievement worthy of praise – let alone the unhinged adoration he is currently receiving across the political spectrum. South Africa today is the murder capital of the world, a nation where a woman is raped every 30 seconds, often by AIDs carriers who go unpunished, and where whites are anything but the citizens of a democratic country, which honors the principles of equality and freedom. Liberated South Africa is one of those epic messes the left created and promptly forgot about.”

Much more can be said about the man and his legacy. And as I said, it was not my intention to even weigh into all this – at least not so early, but when I saw the flood of hero-worship, iconography, hagiography, and historical revisionism, I felt moved to at least offer a few inconvenient truths to help set the record straight.

Mandela was a great man in some respects, but he was also an evil man in some respects. Whether he died a genuine Christian or not seems a moot point. But given how our secular left MSM and elites have a tendency to worship and turn into messiahs people like this, it is vital that a few more facts are thrown into the overall assessment.

And BTW, please do not denounce me and what I have written by foolishly claiming I am somehow just an apartheid proponent. Jenkins answered this best this way: “The apartheid regime was a crime against humanity; as illogical as it was cruel. It is tempting, therefore, to simplify the subject by declaring that all who opposed it were wholly and unswervingly good. It’s important to remember, however, that Mandela has been the first to hold his hands up to his shortcomings and mistakes. In books and speeches, he goes to great length to admit his errors. The real tragedy is that too many in the West can’t bring themselves to see what the great man himself has said all along; that he’s just as flawed as the rest of us, and should not be put on a pedestal.”

And that basically is all I have been trying to do here.

Finally, I strongly urge all of you to watch these two very important videos which only total 11 minutes all up:  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTFhaUYmzV0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTFhaUYmzV0)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKO7MmJ60zY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKO7MmJ60zY)

[christiannews.net/2013/11/26/south-african-missionary-cautions-against-new-film-praising-life-of-nelson-mandela/](http://christiannews.net/2013/11/26/south-african-missionary-cautions-against-new-film-praising-life-of-nelson-mandela/)  
[frontline.org.za/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1675%3Amandela-long-walk-to-freedom&catid=18%3Amovie-reviews-cat&Itemid=199](http://frontline.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1675%3Amandela-long-walk-to-freedom&catid=18%3Amovie-reviews-cat&Itemid=199)  
[www.southafricaproject.info/remembering\_the\_church\_street\_bombing.html](http://www.southafricaproject.info/remembering_the_church_street_bombing.html)  
[thebackbencher.co.uk/3-things-you-didnt-want-to-know-about-nelson-mandela/](http://thebackbencher.co.uk/3-things-you-didnt-want-to-know-about-nelson-mandela/)  
[www.independent.co.uk/news/world/mandela-signs-abortion-bill-1314157.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/mandela-signs-abortion-bill-1314157.html)  
[www.frontpagemag.com/2013/david-horowitz/nelson-mandela-1918-2013/](http://www.frontpagemag.com/2013/david-horowitz/nelson-mandela-1918-2013/)

**Nelson Mandela: More Inconvenient Truths**

I have said it often before: if you want to live a real quiet and peaceful life, just don’t think anything, say anything, do anything, care about anything, or work for anything. Of course you would basically be dead then. But dare to speak out about that which you care for and all hell can break loose.

Dare to write on any controversial issue of the day, especially one drenched in political correctness, and you will see real quick why it might be wiser to just live in a cave somewhere. The haters come out in droves, and it can be a rattling experience to say the least.

Sadly I have this annoying habit of writing about controversial topics and hot-potato issues. Indeed, that is my daily job, believe it or not. That is what CultureWatch exists for. As a result I receive my fair share of abuse, hatred, condemnation and loathing.

And plenty of that actually comes from other Christians. Consider the piece I penned yesterday as an example. I had no desire whatsoever to write anything on the life and death of Nelson Mandela. But when I saw everywhere the avalanche of hero-worship, myth-making, historical revisionism, and just plain idolatrous mush being poured out, I just had to offer a bit of perspective.

So I sought to present a few facts, some historical truths, and a bit of balance to what was being said elsewhere. And for that I am of course once again paying the price. But the utter glorification of someone who was at best a very mixed character just seemed to me to be too much:[www.billmuehlenberg.com/2013/12/06/nelson-mandela/](http://www.billmuehlenberg.com/2013/12/06/nelson-mandela/)

The same slavish worship, adoration and icon-building we saw with Obama and others is now in full swing with Mandela. Even so-called Christians who seem to know nothing about him are praising him as if he were Jesus Christ, and are quite happy to see the history books being rewritten to fully idolise this man.

And even more incredibly, they are even excusing and justifying all the violence, murder and terror because he was working for a ‘good cause’. I am speaking about those claiming to be Christians here! They think all the terrorism and murder was somehow fully justified and even Christ-like because what it was being used for was a just cause, and was even the Christian thing to do.

I am still reeling over some of the things I have read by so-called believers. It has me quite gobsmacked to be honest. We are without doubt living amongst the most emotive-driven, intellectually starved, historically and biblically illiterate generation in church history.

Forget what the Bible clearly teaches. Forget the historical record. Forget all the inconvenient facts and truths and just rely on knee-jerk reactions and pure emotionalism. Just emote your way through all this, and don’t let silly things like the facts of history and biblical truth get in the way.

So now I have to endure all the Mandelaphiles who are now ripping into me, pouring out hatred, abuse and contempt because I have dared to just share a few facts and truths about their hero. I have been called most names one can imagine by now, but “racist bigot” is one of the more common – and printable! – ones I can mention.

And sadly so much of this is coming from those who claim to be followers of Christ. Of course all this is done in the name of Christian love and tolerance. You know, What Would Jesus Do? and all that. Go figure. But I am not alone in simply wishing to ask a few questions and point out a few inconvenient truths.

Others are also saying much the same. Let me cite Christian writer Joseph Farah for example: “The whole world, pretty much, is mourning for Nelson Mandela today. But most are not mourning for the real Mandela. They are, in fact, mourning for the myth of Mandela. He was not Martin Luther King Jr. He was not Mahatma Gandhi. And he was certainly not George Washington, as Barack Obama claimed.

“He was a committed member of the South African Communist Party. He was a leader of the revolutionary African National Congress, which he helped to radicalize into an organization sworn to armed, violent attacks. Maybe you say: ‘But Farah, he was fighting against the evil of Apartheid!’

“Yes, that is true. Apartheid was inarguably an evil and unjustifiable system. But so is the system Mandela’s revolution brought about – one in which anti-white racism is so strong today that a prominent genocide watchdog group has labeled the current situation a ‘precursor’ to the deliberate, systematic elimination of the race.

“In other words, the world has been sold a bill of goods about Mandela. He wasn’t the saintly character portrayed by Morgan Freeman. He wasn’t someone fighting for racial equality. He was the leader of a violent, Communist revolution that has nearly succeeded in all of its grisly horror.”

He says we should not take his word for it: “Instead, listen to Sonia Hruska. She was an early supporter of Mandela and worked in his administration. ‘After about six years,’ Hruska said, ‘I realized something serious is wrong; the communist elements are taking over, it’s not what we were promised.’

“What did she see that the rest of the world missed? ‘As a business owner, I can get 25 years in jail time if I do employ a white person, for instance,’ she said. ‘It is totally ridiculous; you cannot have imagined that affirmative action could have gone so far.’ Today, in South Africa’s white population of 4 million, 1 million live in utter poverty. Meet the new boss. Same as the old boss.

“Hruska describes routine, violent, racist atrocities of almost unimaginable proportions: Kidnap murders, home invasions, gang rapes. ‘It’s heinous torture,’ Hruska explained. ‘Even children as young as 2 months old get burned with hot water, get wrapped in newspaper and burned.’

“In the case of one family, Hruska described a black mob breaking into a home, waiting for the white family to get home, then raping the mother in front of the father and son to see. Then, after killing the mother, they killed the father and son by plunging them into boiling water. She said: ‘There is no easy way of saying exactly how these people are tortured. The standard would be a hot iron, electric iron, boiling water … and these are carried out for hours’.”

Yet many want to argue that Mandela changed his policies and later eschewed violence. Well, yes and no. While he worked for reconciliation, he continued to hobnob with and praise most of the world’s bloodiest dictators and terrorist leaders. As another commentator writes:

“After apartheid ended and Mandela was freed he wasted no time in lavishing praise on communists and thug dictators. In 1991 he and his wife Winnie went to Cuba, which they called their second home, to celebrate the communist revolution with Fidel Castro.

“While there he said, ‘Long live the Cuban Revolution. Long live comrade Fidel Castro… Cuban internationalists have done so much for African independence, freedom, and justice. We admire the sacrifices of the Cuban people in maintaining their independence and sovereignty in the face of a vicious imperialist campaign designed to destroy the advances of the Cuban revolution. We too want to control our destiny… There can be no surrender. It is a case of freedom or death. The Cuban revolution has been a source of inspiration to all freedom-loving people.’

Mandela also said of Cuba, ‘There’s one thing where that country stands out head and shoulders above the rest. That is its love for human rights and liberty.’ Of Libya’s dictator, Moammar Qaddafi, Mandela said he admired his commitment to fight for peace and human rights in the world.

“And in a speech given in Harlem, he referred to four Puerto Rican terrorists who shot and wounded five Congressmen and said, ‘We support the cause of anyone who is fighting for self-determination, and our attitude is the same, no matter who it is. I would be honored to sit on the platform with the four comrades you refer to’.”

And as I wrote in my earlier article, are things that much better in South Africa today? Many don’t think so: “Under ANC rule, South Africa has severely deteriorated. According to the Centre for Research on Globalization, most black South Africans are worse off now than they were under apartheid. Hundreds of thousands of jobs have vanished, costs for electricity, water, food and rent have skyrocketed, unemployment hovers around 40% and South Africa has become the violent crime and rape capital of the world.”

Or as Daniel Greenfield writes: “In the new apartheid, the black government represses a white minority and abuses its power over the black majority in ways that Western liberals would never tolerate if it were being practiced by men with Dutch last names. Every government crime is covered up by more incitement against the white minority with each generation of activists struggling to outdo the previous generation in its anti-white racism.

“There has been no moment of transcendence that endured. No cure for the things tearing the nation apart. There is no new spirit in South Africa. There is a new apartheid defined not by law, but by hate. Freedom and democracy are equally vaporous under the rule of a political movement obsessed with the vicious pragmatism of power now being exercised by Mandela’s African National Congress successors….

“For Western liberals, Mandela’s death provides them with permission to stop caring about South Africa. Having reduced South Africa to Mandela, his death permanently removes its existence from their minds. They may show up to the theater if Denzel Washington or Jamie Foxx decide to play Nelson Mandela. Otherwise they will comfortably banish the entire country to the dusty attic of forgotten history. Meanwhile one child is raped every three minutes and three children are murdered every day.”

Speaking of rape, consider the damning figures from this article: “According to [womenforwomen.org](http://womenforwomen.org/), per hour one woman is raped in South Africa. Six cases of rape are reported to the police per hour. Meaning 144 rapes are reported per day. That’s not counting the number of rapes that go unreported.

“According to the Medical Research Council’s (MRC), up to 3600 women could be raped in the country every day. While women’s groups in South Africa estimate that a woman is raped every 26 seconds, the South African police estimate that a woman is raped every 36 seconds.”

Yet I keep hearing Christians telling me that South Africa is so much better now thanks to Mandela, and that at least apartheid is gone. Better is hardly the operative word here, and racial discrimination still exists, and is in fact even worse now. But now it is the whites who are the new and forgotten victims.

As Gregory Hood puts it, “Mandela deserves full responsibility for all of this. From the beginning, his dream was of a unitary South African state dominated by black voters supporting a leftist political party, with a thin crust of whites to fund it and keep it going. South Africa’s decline into criminality and chaos is simply these ideas playing out to their logical conclusion.”

There will be much more said about the man and his fruit in the days and weeks ahead. Given that I originally had no intentions of writing anything about him, this is now my second piece, and there may well be more on the way. But when I see truth demolished and historical fact denied or whitewashed, then I feel compelled to speak out.

And for that, I will simply get bombarded with more hate and abuse. So what else is new?

PS. For a terrific, fact filled review of the new film *Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom* see here:

[www.frontline.org.za/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=1676&catid=16&Itemid=201](http://www.frontline.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1676&catid=16&Itemid=201" \o "http://www.frontline.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1676&catid=16&Itemid=201" \t "_blank)

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